> “This book is deliberately set with difficult questions to train learners to achieve higher standard of vocabulary than their counterparts.”

Advanced Vocabulary

With 'VOCAB quick CHECK'

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For O Level

Challenging English Series

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Preface

Recognising the need for secondary school students to be armed with strong vocabulary skills, **Advanced Vocabulary For 'O' Level** is designed especially for those in secondary four (Express and Normal) who wish to build on their knowledge of new words.

Deliberately set at a standard **higher** than the secondary four level, the objective of this book is to allow the learner to master a higher level of vocabulary so that he is able to apply distinctive words during examinations to impress markers further.

With a total of 365 tests categorised into 10 different parts, this book provides more than sufficient practice for the vocabulary learner by focusing on a specific type of vocabulary usage in each section. This allows the learner to have a sharpened sense of the different types of vocabulary usage and at the same time, develops an extensive collection of new words.

Different skills can be picked up in the various sections of this book. Under *"Confusing Words"*, the learner is able to acquire a more discerning mind by picking out the most appropriate word among similar words in a sentence usage. Under *"Synonyms and Antonyms"*, one can build on the knowledge of pairs of words with same and opposite meanings. *"Challenging Idioms"*, *"Similes"* and *"Figures of Speech"* focus on the figurative use of the English language. This form of knowledge is especially useful when the student wants to find an imaginative way of expressing feelings, situations or opinions.

Conscientious attempts are made to facilitate vocabulary learning for the student. Lists of difficult words and their corresponding meanings are presented in the form of "**VOCAB** quick **CHECK**" in the sections entitled *"Multiple Choice Questions"* and *"Confusing Words"*. This provides an ease of reference for the learner who wishes to check on new or baffling words in the tests.

Therefore, learning new words is no longer an insurmountable task, but an exciting and stimulating experience, with dedicated guidance along the way.

Andrew Murphy
Editor

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365 Tests

PART 1 Multiple Choice Questions

Challenge 1

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Wilber writes in a style that is brief and ____ and does not waste words unnecessarily.
(1) succinct (2) effusive (3) verbose (4) long-winded

2. A _____ person by nature, Pauline likes making new friends and holding parties where everybody can enjoy themselves.
(1) exultant (2) amiable (3) happy (4) gregarious

3. Professor Tan is an extremely intelligent and _____ person who is always inventing new theories.
(1) inspired (2) conceited (3) ingenious (4) curious

4. Motorists are _____ to avoid Orchard Road due to traffic congestion.
(1) advised (2) reprimanded (3) warned (4) told

5. The _____ lies that they have told about me are absolutely wicked!
(1) despicable (2) blatant (3) indecorous (4) inappropriate

6. The smallpox _____ in the 19th century caused widespread fear and resulted in a huge loss of life.
(1) endemic (2) epidemic (3) academic (4) epicure

7. Meditation in the temple over the past few months has brought about a change in the impulsive man; he became more _____ and spiritual.
(1) composed (2) receptive (3) quiet (4) contemplative

8. Be careful of James for he is a very smooth talker who has been blessed with the gift of the _____.
(1) glib (2) tongue (3) mouth (4) gab

9. The demonstrators took to the streets after being _____ to riot by their leader's rousing rhetoric.
(1) endorsed (2) promoted (3) incited (4) impelled

[illegible]

10. It is always better to be a man of _____ and to live by your conscience.
(1) integrity (2) veracity (3) candour (4) reputation

[illegible]

11. Tommy has always been a conscientious student who passes up his homework on time without having to be _____.
(1) prompted (2) instructed (3) provoked (4) spurred

12. Mr Brown is a very _____ manager who takes painstaking care to ensure that every detail is in place.
(1) anxious (2) responsible (3) flabbergasted (4) meticulous

[illegible]

amiable - adj. friendly and pleasant in manner.
blatant - adj. open and unashamed; flagrant.
candour - n. the quality of being open and honest.
composed - adj. calm.
conceited - adj. excessively proud of oneself.
contemplative - adj. think profoundly and at length.
effusive - adj. expressing gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained manner.
endemic - adj. (of a disease or condition) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area.
endorse - v. declare one's public approval of.
epicure - n. a person who takes particular pleasure in fine food and drink.
epidemic - n. a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.
exultant - adj. triumphant.
flabbergasted - adj. surprised greatly.
gregarious - adj. fond of company, sociable
impel - v. force or urge to do something.
indecorous - adj. not in keeping with good taste and propriety; improper
ingenious - adj. clever, original, and inventive
meticulous - adj. very careful and precise.
painstaking - adj. done with or employing great care and thoroughness.
receptive - adj. willing to consider new ideas.
rhetoric - n. the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing.
rousing - adj. stirring
spur - v. encourage, give an incentive to.
veracity - n. conformity to facts, accuracy

Challenge 2

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Henry is an incorrigible and _____ liar whose habits will never change.
(1) stubborn (2) persistent [✓ (3) inveterate] (4) confirmed
[illegible] - دیرینہ - [illegible]

2. The treaty signed by the Prince has to be _____ by the King before it becomes binding.
(1) manifested [✓ (2) ratified] (3) confirmed (4) licensed

3. Terrence's brave deed has just earned him a medal and a letter of _____ from the police.
(1) honour (2) gratitude (3) praise [✓ (4) commendation]

4. When the idea of marriage was brought up, Romeo and Juliet received their parents' blessings and _____.
(1) assurance (2) accreditation [✓ (3) approbation] (4) certification
اجازت - پسندیدگی - [illegible]

5. The people of Singapore must be warned not to take the freedom of speech as an opportunity to _____ racial discord.
[✓ (1) instigate] (2) inspire (3) inscribe (4) insinuate

6. Johnny is an extremely _____ person as he will agree to do almost anything for money.
[✓ (1) mercenary] (2) miraculous (3) meticulous (4) mediocre
[illegible]

7. Leslie was _____ when Jessica rejected his date because it made him lose face.
(1) petrified (2) pacified (3) provoked [✓ (4) piqued]

8. My investments will suffer unless property values _____ within the next few months.
[✓ (1) soar] (2) escalate (3) spiral [✓ (4) appreciate]

9. The inflation rates of the country are rising rapidly and show no sign of _____ out to a stable rate.
(1) plunging (2) lowering (3) plummeting (4) leveling

10. It is _____ for elders and married couples to give out red packets during the Chinese New Year.
(1) contradictory (2) consistent [✓ (3) customary] (4) controversial

11. Conventions cannot be blindly _____ to if we wish for originality.
[✓ (1) adhered] (2) reconciled (3) adjusted (4) accommodated

12. You must be brave and _____ yourself to the tragedy of having lost both your parents in the car crash.
[✓ (1) reconcile] (2) redeem (3) concede (4) submit

VOCAB quick CHECK

accreditation - n. credit to (someone) for something.
adhere - v. believe in and follow the practices of.
appreciate - v. rise in value or price.
approbation - n. approval; praise.
binding - adj. involving a contractual obligation.
commendation - n. formal praise.
concede - v. finally admit that something is true.
controversial - adj. causing or likely to cause heated debate.
incorrigible - adj. not able to be corrected or reformed.
convention - n. socially acceptable behaviour.
inflation - n. a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money.
inscribe - v. write or carve (words or symbols) on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record.
insinuate - v. suggest (something bad) in an indirect and unpleasant way.
instigate - v. bring about or initiate.
inveterate - adj. having a long-standing and firmly established habit or activity.
manifest - v. demonstrate.
mercenary - adj. primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics.
mediocre - adj. of only average quality.
meticulous - adj. very careful and precise.
petrified - adj. paralysed with fear.
piqued - adj. feel irritated or resentful
plummet - v. decrease rapidly in value or amount.
ratify - v. give formal consent to, make officially valid.
reconcile - v. accept (a disagreeable thing).

Quip : طعنہ۔ طنز۔

Challenge 3

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The newscaster announced that America has just put new economic _____ on Iran until further notice.
(1) policies (2) measures [✓ (3) sanctions] (4) guidelines

2. He took out a _____ of arrows, picked one and fitted it to his bow.
(1) quire (2) quibble (3) quiche [✓ (4) quiver] ترکش

3. Mr Goh is always exploiting people around him to _____ his wealth and fame.
(1) exaggerate [✓ (2) aggrandise] (3) procure (4) enlarge
بڑھانا

4. I am very interested in hearing your ideas and would like you to _____ on the brief points you have just mentioned.
(1) embellish [✓ (2) elaborate] (3) enhance (4) emote
وضاحت، [illegible]

5. You can check the _____ for synonyms of the word you have in mind.
[✓ (1) thesaurus] (2) dictionary (3) encyclopedia (4) bibliography

6. Can you please _____ the colour and material you would like your shirt to be tailored in?
[✓ (1) specify] بتانا۔ [illegible] (2) consider (3) consign (4) exemplify

7. Evelyn's disfigurement completely _____ her self-confidence; she has since become a recluse who hardly steps out of the house.
(1) distinguished [✓ (2) decimated] (3) delimited (4) demoted
[illegible]

8. Danielle can be accurately described as a _____ girl who never says no to a challenge!
(1) fearful (2) fiery (3) fearsome [illegible] [✓ (4) feisty] کھولا ہوا

9. Other people are always taking advantage of Adeline because she is naive and _____.
naively
(1) inhibitive (2) ingenious [✓ (3) ingenuous] سادہ (4) incongruous

10. When we were young, Charlie and I made a _____ to always stay best friends.
(1) oath (2) agreement (3) contract [✓ (4) pact]

11. The trek we undertook up the Himalayans Mountains left an _____ mark in my memory. I am sure it will always be something I remember fondly.
[✓ (1) indelible] انمٹ - لازوال (2) inedible (3) incipient (4) incomprehensible

12. We all want to concentrate and make a united and _____ effort to win the competition.
(1) concert [✓ (2) concerted] (3) concerting (4) disconcerting
[illegible]

VOCAB quick CHECK

aggrandise - v. increase the power, status, or wealth of.
bibliography - n. a list of sources referred to in a particular work.
concerted - adj. done with great effort.
consign - v. deliver to someone's custody.
decimate - v. drastically reduce the strength of.
delimit - v. determine the limits or boundaries of.
demote - v. give a lower rank or less senior position to.
disconcerting - adj. unsettling.
distinguish - v. be an identifying characteristic of.
embellish - v. adorn, decorate.
exemplify - v. give a typical example of.
emote - v. portray emotion theatrically.
feisty - adj. spirited and exuberant.
incongruous - adj. out of place.
incipient - adj. beginning to happen or develop.
indelible - adj. unable to be forgotten.
ingenuous - adj. innocent and unsuspecting.
inhibitive - adj. restrained.
pact - n. a formal agreement between individuals or parties.
procure - v. cause to happen.
quibble - n. a slight objection or criticism.
quiche - n. a baked flan with a savoury filling thickened with eggs.
quire - n. four sheets of paper or parchment folded to form eight leaves.
quiver - n. an archer's portable case for arrows.
recluse - n. a person who avoids others and lives a solitary life.
sanction - n. measures taken by a state to coerce another to conform to an international agreement or norms of conduct.
thesaurus - n. a book that lis words in groups of synony and related concepts.

enuci

diffide

Challenge 4

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. He is used to living an _____ lifestyle and therefore cannot accept his impoverished circumstances now.
(1) epicurean (2) influential (3) effluent [✓ (4) affluent] دولتمند

2. The language used in Shakespeare's plays is rather _____ and complex.
(1) old (2) out-dated [✓ (3) archaic] (4) obsolete

3. A successful news anchor needs to be able to _____ and pronounce the words in her script clearly.
[✓ (1) enunciate] (2) proclaim (3) articulate (4) cite

4. Everyone laughed when Judy, the class's slowest reader, joked that she would never be able to finish reading the _____ version of "Romeo and Juliet".
(1) long (2) unedited (3) abridged [✓ (4) unabridged]

5. Alexander Dumas' "The Three Musketeers" is an _____ tale of courage, intelligence, heroism and adventure.
(1) affected (2) ostentatious (3) extraordinary [✓ (4) epic]

6. The housewife soon grew bored of the drudgery of housework and the _____ routine of her life.
(1) slow (2) conventional [✓ (3) mundane] (4) conservative

7. Richard is an absolutely _____ man; he did not show any sympathy at all for the blind, old beggar!
[✓ (1) callous] (2) indulgent (3) lethargic (4) indolent

8. The fact that the juvenile delinquent has the _____ to commit the crime in broad daylight shows that he is already a hardened criminal.
[✓ (1) audacity] (2) opacity (3) capacity (4) capability

9. Her _____ is sometimes mistaken for arrogance as she does not talk much to people.
[✓ (1) diffidence] (2) difficulty (3) reserved (4) rectitude

10. In the 19th century, men who were _____ dressers were considered dandies.
(1) extreme (2) casual (3) moderate [✓ (4) flamboyant]

11. Please do not _____ the statue of Buddha by climbing up to it to pose for pictures.
[✓ (1) desecrate] (2) disseminate (3) disturb (4) displease

12. The few millimetres that the worm grows is usually _____ and is not easily noticed.
(1) invisible (2) incredible (3) incredulous [✓ (4) imperceptible]

VOCAB quick CHECK

abridged - **adj.** of a text or film, shortened without losing the sense.

affected - **adj.** pretentious, and designed to impress.

affluent - **adj.** wealthy.

anchor - **n.** presenter on a television or radio programme.

archaic - **adj.** belonging to an early period of art or culture.

audacity - **n.** recklessly daring.

callous - **adj.** cruel.

conventional - **adj.** in accordance with convention.

dandy - **n.** a man unduly concerned with a stylish and fashionable appearance.

desecrate - **v.** treat (a sacred place or thing) with violent disrespect.

delinquent - **n.** (typically of young people) tending to commit crime.

diffidence - **n.** modesty or shyness because of a lack of self-confidence.

disseminate - **v.** spread widely.

drudgery - **n.** menial, or dull work.

effluent - **n.** liquid waste discharged into a river or the sea.

enunciate - **v.** say or pronounce clearly.

epic - **adj.** a long film, book, or other work portraying heroic deeds or covering an extended period of time.

epicurean - **adj.** taking particular pleasure in fine food and drink.

flamboyant - **adj.** brightly coloured and showy.

imperceptible - **adj.** so slight, gradual, or subtle as not to be perceived.

impoverished - **adj.** poor.

incredulous - **adj.** unwilling or unable to believe something.

indolent - **adj.** wanting to avoid activity or exertion; lazy.

indulgent - **adj.** tolerant or lenient.

juvenile - **adj.** a young person.

mundane - **adj.** lacking interest or excitement.

rectitude - **n.** formal morally correct behaviour.

Challenge 5

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. His _____ behaviour at the battlefront does not mark him out as an honourable and courageous soldier.
(1) craven (2) careful (3) considerate [✓ (4) conscientious]

2. His _____ makes him an unpopular person at parties and other social gatherings.
[✓ (1) reticence] (2) reluctance (3) robustness (4) righteousness

3. Most American-born Chinese are able to _____ into the American society easily.
(1) flow (2) plunge [✓ (3) assimilate] (4) affiliate
تبدیل ہونا - جذب ہو جانا، ملا دینا

4. Roy is one of the most industrious and _____ students I have ever seem.
(1) dodgy (2) diffident [✓ (3) diligent] (4) different

5. The Minister _____ in last night's news report that tight security measures at the airport are necessary.
[✓ (1) reiterated] (2) revived (3) registered (4) resuscitated
بار بار دہرانا

6. Indiana Jones had to cross a narrow bridge in his search for the Holy Grail - the difficulty of which was _____ by the invisible nature of the bridge.
(1) confined (2) confounded (3) combined [✓ (4) compounded]

7. The mountain-climbing team had to stop in their ascent as they had reached a _____ and needed to change the direction of their climb.
(1) cliff [✓ (2) precipice] (3) travertine (4) abyss
کھڑی چٹان - ٹیلہ

8. Her _____ manner of speaking to me shows her obvious insolence and arrogance!
(1) precautious (2) preacher [✓ (3) peremptory] (4) possessive
قطعی - واضح - لازمی

9. _____ refers to the killing of one's own father.
[✓ (1) Patricide] (2) Fratricide (3) Matricide (4) Insecticide

10. In order to be the world's best jockey, you have to _____ your skills on the tracks first.
(1) whet [✓ (2) hone] (3) rehearse (4) prepare

11. I do not think that she is really intelligent and has a mind of her own; she is only _____ what she has memorised from books.
(1) revealing (2) reinstating (3) reiterating [✓ (4) regurgitating]
دہرانا - واپس لوٹانا

12. Our _____ senses are not as strong as a dog's, which has a more sensitive smelling range.
[✓ (1) olfactory] (2) ocular (3) auditory (4) optical

Pertains to smell

VOCAB quick CHECK

abyss - **n.** a very deep chasm.

assimilate - **v.** absorb and integrate (people, ideas, or culture).

affiliate - **v.** officially attach or connect to an organisation.

compound - **v.** make (something bad) worse.

confound - **v.** prove wrong.

craven - **adj.** contemptibly lacking in courage; cowardly.

diffident - **adj.** modest or shy because of a lack of self-confidence.

dodgy - **adj.** risky; dangerous.

fratricide - **n.** the killing of one's brother or sister.

hone - **v.** make sharper or more focused or efficient.

insolence - **n.** disrespect.

matricide - **n.** the killing of one's mother.

ocular - **adj.** of or connected with the eyes or vision.

olfactory - **adj.** relating to the sense of smell.

patricide - **n.** the killing of one's father.

peremptory - **n.** insisting on immediate attention or obedience.

precipice - **n.** a tall and very steep rock face or cliff.

regurgitate - **v.** repeat (information) without analysing or comprehending it.

reinstate - **v.** place or fix in position again.

reiterate - **v.** say something again or repeatedly.

resuscitate - **v.** revive from unconsciousness.

reticence - **n.** not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily.

robustness - **n.** sturdiness or resilience.

travertine - **n.** white or light-coloured calcareous rock deposited from mineral springs, used in building.

whet - **v.** excite or stimulate (someone's desire, interest, or appetite).

cordial warm and friendly

[illegible]

Challenge 6

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. _____ people just can't mind their own business and like to place their noses into other people's matters.
(1) officious [illegible] (2) official (3) offensive (4) odious

2. A true _____ will never believe in the occult and all other strange occurrences.
(1) snob (2) septic (3) addict [✓ (4) skeptic]

3. It is quite difficult to make sure babies get their nutritional needs met as they tend to _____ after imbibing the contents of their milk bottle.
(1) burp (2) sleep (3) cry [✓ (4) regurgitate]

4. It is important to have _____ insurance coverage for rainy days.
(1) obligatory (2) meagre [✓ (3) adequate] (4) dependent
کافی sufficient

5. When he heard the bad news, his face turned _____ and he started sputtering in anger.
(1) lively [illegible] [✓ (2) livid] [illegible] [✓ (3) lurid] (4) expressionless

6. His prize-winning novel won him many _____ from both critics and publicists and will definitely become a bestseller..
(1) ascertainments (2) accolades (3) ascensions (4) accomplishments
[illegible]

7. The language that people use in internet chatrooms is usually full of _____ and it can be daunting for a first-timer to comprehend.
(1) abbreviations (2) confusions (3) metaphors (4) allegory

8. The _____ of his hands gives him the ability to be a very good craftsman.
(1) inclination [✓ (2) dexterity] [illegible] (3) flexibility (4) speed [illegible]
[illegible]

9. The brain is usually loosely divided into its _____ and posterior portions.
(1) axis (2) interior (3) anterior (4) peripheral
[illegible]

10. A _____ is someone who constantly assumes himself to be sick.
(1) hydrophobic (2) hypocrite (3) hypnotic [✓ (4) hypochondriac]

11. He is so _____ and as stubborn as a mule; nothing that we say can change his mind.
(1) oblivious (2) obvious [✓ (3) obdurate] (4) obverse
[illegible]
ضدی - اڑیل - ہٹ دھرم

12. _____ bliss is something all engaged couples wish to achieve after their marriage.
[✓ (1) Conjugal] (2) Conceptual (3) Cordial (4) Contrived
میاں بیوی کا - مباشرت

accolade - n. something granted as a special honour or in recognition of merit
allegory - n. a story, poem, or picture which reveals a hidden meaning
anterior - adj. front of the body or nearer to the head
ascension - n. the action of rising to a higher position
ascertainment - n. the act of finding out for certain
conjugal - adj. the relationship between husband and wife
cordial - adj. warm and friendly.
contrived - adj. deliberately created.
daunting - adj. make (someone) feel intimidated or apprehensive.
dexterity - n. deliberately created rather than arising spontaneously.
hydrophobic - adj. suffering from extreme or irrational fear of water.
hypnotic - adj. sleep-inducing.
hypochondraic - adj. abnormal chronic anxiety about one's health.
livid - adj. furiously angry
lurid - adj. unpleasantly vivid in colour.
meagre - adj. lacking in quantity or quality.
metaphor - n. a figure of speech.
obdurate - adj. stubbornly refusing to change an opinion.
oblivious - adj. ot aware of what is happening around one.
obverse - adj. opposite or counterpart.
occult - n. supernatural powers.
odious - adj. extremely unpleasant; repulsive.
officious - adj. asserting authority in a domineering way.
peripheral - adj. marginal.
posterior - adj. nearer the rear or hind end.
septic - adj. of a wound infected with bacteria.
skeptic - n. a person inclined to question or doubt accepted opinions.

Pantheist ; شرک، بت پرست   Neologism :-   [illegible]

Pantheon :- A temple of all Gods
تمام دیوتاؤں کا مندر ،

Challenge 7

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Singaporeans are often accused of political _____ as they seem to be more interested in eating, shopping and making money.
(1) ecstacy (2) sympathy (3) novelty [✓ (4) apathy]

2. _____ is the coining of new words.
[✓ (1) Neologism] (2) Syllogism (3) Symbolism (4) Euphemism
[illegible]

3. The Greeks have a whole _____ of Gods, each of whom oversees specific qualities.
(1) stable (2) procession (3) harem [✓ (4) pantheon]

4. A _____ is someone who is between eighty and eighty-nine years old.
(1) octet (2) nonagenarian [✓ (3) octogenarian] (4) ode
اسی سے نوے سال کے درمیان - اسی برس کا انسان

5. His superior did not like his careless and _____ attitude towards his work and soon fired him.
(1) callous [✓ (2) reckless] (3) nonchalant (4) diffident

6. Some writers prefer to use a _____ so as to keep their real identity a secret.
(1) alias (2) anonymous (3) epilogue [✓ (4) pseudonym]
A fictious name of author   مصنف کا فرضی نام -

7. Everybody screamed in terror as the woman hung _____ by the ledge of the window before plummeting to her death.
[illegible]
(1) preciously (2) precociously (3) precipitously [✓ (4) precariously]
پر خطر طریقے سے

8. Mr Lee had _____ made his way up the corporate ladder over the past years.
(1) incidentally (2) accidentally [✓ (3) insidiously] (4) incredulously
[illegible]

9. Your _____ has caused the company to lose this contract as the other party no longer believes in our efficiency.
[✓ (1) fecklessness] (2) recklessness (3) restlessness (4) nervousness
کمزوری - سستی -

10. It is not too late to _____ and save the remaining soldiers from being killed by the enemies.
[illegible] [✓ (1) capitulate] (2) captivate (3) capacitate (4) capitalise
Surrender

11. Wendy is always _____ between choices as she is a very indecisive person.
[illegible] [✓ (1) oscillating] (2) orchestrating (3) originating (4) obliterating

12. It is your _____ imagination that caused you to mistake the swinging curtains for a ghostly apparition.
[illegible] (1) feeble (2) febrile [✓ (3) fertile] (4) fervent

alias - n. an assumed identity
apathy - n. lack of interest.
apparition - n. a remarkable thing making a sudden appearance.
capacitate - v. make capable.
capitulate - v. surrender.
diffident - adj. modest or shy because of a lack of self-confidence.
epilogue - n. a section at the end of a book serving as a comment.
euphemism - n. less direct word when referring to something unpleasant.
febrile - adj. showing a great deal of nervous excitement.
feckless - adj. irresponsible.
fervent - adj. passionate.
harem - n. the wives (or concubines) of a polygamous man.
incidental - adj. occurring by chance.
insidious - adj. proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects.
neologism - n. a newly coined word or expression.
nonagenarian - n. a person between 90 and 99 years old.
nonchalant - adj. casually calm and relaxed.
pantheon - n. a collection of particularly famous people.
precarious - adj. not securely held or in position.
precipitous - adj. dangerously high or steep.
precocious - adj. having developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual.
pseudonym - n. a fictitious name, especially one used by an author.
obliterate - v. destroy utterly; wipe out.
octet - n. a group of eight musicians.
octogenarian - n. a person who is between 80 and 89 years old.
ode - n. a lyric poem.
oscillate - v. fluctuate between two states, opinions, etc.
syllogism - n. a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed propositions.

Challenge 8

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. One needs ______ to handle an awkward situation in a dignified manner.
   [✓ (1) self-command] (2) self-discipline (3) self-control (4) self-censorship

2. Chicken is also known as a ______.
   [✓ (1) fowl] (2) canine (3) feline (4) rodent
   مرغ [illegible]

3. I have ______ many different types of people but not someone as rude as he is!
   [✓ (1) encountered] (2) experienced (3) tried (4) contracted
   [illegible] اتفاق ہونا [illegible]

4. Lazy people often ______ those tasks that require industriousness and diligence.
   [✓ (1) eschew] (2) claim (3) espouse (4) adopt
   [illegible] avoid

5. This is a good place to stop and take some photos, as it is extremely ______.
   [✓ (1) picturesque] (2) shady (3) vivid (4) vivifying
   تصویر کے لائق، دلکش [illegible]

6. Roger has been absolutely ______ after knowing that he is the top scorer this year.
   [✓ (1) rapturous] (2) ramified (3) rapacious (4) rampant
   دلی خوشی، پرتپاک [illegible]

7. His ______ from top to toe befits that of a gentleman.
   [✓ (1) raiment] (2) jacket (3) cuff (4) greatcoat
   لباس، پوشاک [illegible]

8. The old man stamped his feet impatiently and inquired in a ______ voice as to when his breakfast would be served.
   [✓ (1) querulous] (2) amorous (3) populous (4) credulous

In order to increase his ______, Dylan makes sure that he practises one new song on his guitar everyday.
(1) endowment [✓ (2) repertoire] (3) inheritance (4) endorsement

0. Instead of ______ the jury's suspicions, his garbled self-defence only succeeded in making them more convinced of his guilt.
(1) tumbling (2) felling [✓ (3) quelling] (4) plummeting

People of their ______ tend to be more conservative and not as open-minded as us.
(1) epic [✓ (2) era] (3) epoch (4) generation

One is usually struck with the extravagance and ______ of 17th century French
alaces.
[✓ 1) grandiosity] (2) generosity (3) generality (4) gentility
شان و شوکت [illegible]

amorous - adj. showing or feeling sexual desire.
befit - v. be appropriate for, suit
canine - n. relating to a dog
credulous - adj. having too great a readiness to believe things.
endorsement - n. declaration of one's public approval.
endowment - n. the action of giving n income or property.
epic - n. a long poem narrating the deeds of heroic or legendary figures or the past history of a nation.
epoch - n. a particular period of time in history.
era - n. a long and distinct period of history.
eschew - v. abstain from
espouse - v. adopt or support (a cause, belief, or way of life).
feline - n. relating to a cat.
garble - v. reproduce (a message or transmission) in a confused and distorted way.
gentility - n. socially superior or genteel character or behaviour.
grandiosity - n. magnificence.
greatcoat - n. a long heavy overcoat.
populous - adj. having a large population.
quell - v. subdue or suppress.
querulous - adj. complaining in a petulant or whining manner.
raiment - n. clothing.
rampant - adj. flourishing or spreading unchecked.
ramified - adj. branched out.
rapacious - adj. aggressively greedy.
rapturous - adj. feeling or showing great pleasure or enthusiasm.
repertoire - n. the body of pieces known or regularly performed by a performer or company.
vivid - adj. producing powerful feelings or strong, clear images in the mind
vivifying - adj. lively; enliven.

Loquacious
باتونی

Challenge 9

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. That conman has absolutely no ______ about cheating that old lady of her life savings!
   (1) sensibility (2) restrictions [✓ (3) qualms] (4) conscience

2. Although Michael Jackson is no longer as popular as he was before, he remains an ______ figure in pop history.
   (1) idyllic (2) ironic (3) italic [✓ (4) iconic]
   مورتی کا - [illegible] - بزرگوں کی تصویر

3. The poor mother looks absolutely ______ by her four children's cries for attention.
   (1) bemused (2) bewildered (3) belittled [✓ (4) beleaguered]
   نرغے میں ہونا - ناکہ بندی کرنا

4. ______ disputes within the government will only weaken a country's morale and unity.
   (1) Fanatical (2) Fractional [✓ (3) Factional] (4) Fictional
   فتنہ انگیز - شقاقہ علیحدہ پسندی

5. Propaganda only aims to ______ and not educate the people.
   (1) inform (2) program (3) enlighten [✓ (4) indoctrinate]

6. I am glad I attended his lecture for I feel that I have been ______ by the experience.
   (1) edited [✓ (2) edified] (3) emulated (4) electrified
   اخلاق بلند کرنا تزکیہ درس دینا

7. I had met with another doctor ______ to our consultation so that I can have more assurance about my medical report.
   [✓ (1) prior] (2) previous (3) precedent (4) periphery

8. Women who act ______ just to get men's attention are generally not thought well of.
   (1) nervous [✓ (2) coy] (3) shy (4) timid
   حیادار، شرمیلی - علیحدہ - تنہا - [illegible]

9. Don't be ______ by making jokes at other people's expense!
   [✓ (1) facetious] (2) fractious (3) fanciful (4) frivolous

10. His behaviour towards his teacher is too ______ and inappropriate.
    [✓ (1) familiar] (2) infamous (3) superficial (4) famous
    روزمرہ کا [illegible]

11. The ______ quality of yoga makes it perfect as an exercise that benefits the well-being of the mind and body.
    (1) fit [✓ (2) calming] (3) salubrious (4) serene

12. Lynette is very ______ and no one can resist the persuasiveness of her arguments!
    (1) talkative [✓ (2) glib] (3) chatty (4) loquacious
    چرب زبان [illegible]

beleaguered - adj. put in a very difficult situation.
bemused - adj. confused.
coy - adj. pretending shyness or modesty.
edify - v. instruct or improve morally or intellectually.
emulate - v. attempt to match or surpass.
facetious - adj. using inappropriate humour.
factional - adj. split into groups.
fanatical - adj. filled with excessive zeal.
fractious - adj. easily irritated.
frivolous - adj. not having any serious purpose or value.
iconic - adj. symbolic.
idyllic - adj. blissful.
indoctrinate - v. cause to accept a set of beliefs uncritically through repeated instruction.
ironic - adj. happening in the opposite way to what is expected, and causing wry amusement.
loquacious - adj. talkative.
periphery - n. the outer limits or edge of an area or object.
precedent - n. an earlier event or action serving as an example or guide.
prior - adj. existing or coming before in time, order, or importance.
propaganda - n. information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
qualm - n. a feeling of doubt or unease, especially about one's conduct.
salubrious - adj. health-giving, healthy.

speculates

Challenge 10

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. It is very difficult to stick out like a sore thumb and to go against the ______.
(1) pitch (2) masses (3) grain [✓ (4) norm]

2. A country needs good public ______ such as a wide communications network in order to attract foreign investment.
[✓ (1) infrastructure] (2) instruments (3) instructions (4) institutions

3. A ______ is also a bootlicker who likes to sing insincere praise to others.
(1) socialite (2) hypocrite [✓ (3) sycophant] (4) charlatan

4. The ______ regard Thomson held for his niece is admirable.
(1) parental (2) maternal (3) paternal [✓ (4) avuncular.]

Like an uncle

5. Please observe the ______ in this company and follow the rules set out for you.
[✓ (1) protocol] (2) procedure (3) predicate (4) prerequisite

6. ______ is considered a serious offense in the eyes of the law and should never be practised.
(1) Dissembling [✓ (2) Perjury] (3) Lying (4) Dishonesty

7. The ______ is a small tool for making holes in leather.
(1) axle (2) awe (3) axe [✓ (4) awl]

8. She is the ______ of elegance and sophistication and many people look up to her.
(1) climax (2) peak (3) idol [✓ (4) epitome]

Summit

9. He is ______ to put his puppy to sleep, but he has no choice as the dog is suffering in immense pain.
(1) willing (2) keen [✓ (3) unwilling] (4) loathed

10. The ______ of what she had done did not strike her until she realised that she could be jailed for it.
[✓ (1) enormity] (2) equanimity (3) equality (4) equity

The old man's manner with everyone but his favourite granddaughter is often ______ and curt.
(1) blasé (2) brash (3) bossy [✓ (4) brusque]

It is risky to speculate in shares as the prices of stocks ______ everyday.
(1) increase [✓ (2) fluctuate] (3) vacillate (4) oscillate

VOCAB quick CHECK

avuncular - adj. like an uncle

awl - n. a small pointed tool used for piercing holes.

blase - adj. unimpressed with or indifferent to something because of overfamiliarity.

brusque - adj. abrupt or offhand.

charlatan - n. a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill.

dissemble - v. hide or disguise one's true motives or feelings

enormity - n. the large scale or extreme seriousness of (something bad).

epitome - n. a person or thing that is a perfect example of (a quality or type).

equanimity - n. calmness; composure.

equity - n. the quality of being fair and impartial.

infrastructure - n. the basic physical and organizational structures.

loathe - v. feel hatred or disgust for.

oscillate - v. move or swing back and forth in a regular rhythm.

perjury - n. the offence of wilfully telling an untruth or making a misrepresentation under oath.

predicate - n. omething which is affirmed or denied concerning an argument of a proposition.

prerequisite - n. a prior condition.

protocol - n. the accepted code of procedure or behaviour in a particular situation.

socialite - n. a person who is well known in fashionable society and is fond of social activities.

sycophant - n. a toady; a servile flatterer.

vacillate -v. waver between different opinions or actions.

Challenge 11

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. A news article reported that the House of Gucci has always prided itself in being at the ______ of fashion.
(1) advance (2) rearguard (3) battalion [✓ (4) vanguard]

2. Her ______ manipulation of the car prevented the two vehicles from colliding head on.
(1) addled (2) advanced (3) admirable [✓ (4) adroit]

3. I was rather surprised to bump into Walter at the rock concert as I had always regarded him as being rather ______.
[✓ (1) staid] (2) prosaic (3) reticent (4) introverted

4. The sale of cigarettes to those below eighteen years of age is ______ by the law of Singapore.
(1) solicited [✓ (2) proscribed] (3) prescribed (4) entertained

غیر قانونی - پابندی

5. If you keep ______, you will never get your revision done on time!
[✓ (1) procrastinating] (2) protesting (3) prevailing (4) proliferating

ٹال مٹول - لیت و لعل کرنا

6. My mother rejected the furniture that I had chosen for my room, saying that it was more ______ than practical.
[✓ (1) aesthetic] (2) arcane (3) ascetic (4) austere

7. The ______ of the two sisters made the beauty of the elder sibling even more apparent in contrast.
(1) similarity [✓ (2) juxtaposition] (3) proximity (4) immediacy

8. My ______ helped me to custom-make a set of braces for my irregular teeth.
[✓ (1) orthodontist] (2) ornithologist (3) orthopaedist (4) orthographic

9. Teochew and Hokkien are some of the ______ languages of Singapore.
(1) legible (2) avuncular (3) oral [✓ (4) vernacular]

مقامی زبان - دیسی - ملکی - وطنی

10. The closing of the wafer plant in Sembawang does not ______ well for Singapore's economy.
(1) auger (2) augment [✓ (3) augur] (4) aught

11. Ricky is one of the most ______ and sophisticated young men I have seen for some time.
(1) urchin (2) urban [✓ (3) urbane] (4) usher

شائستہ - مہذب

12. It is ______ to spend so much money on our wedding. I'll much rather put the money to a more practical purpose and get us a larger flat to stay in.
(1) inevitable (2) inexorable [✓ (3) inexpedient] (4) inexpiable

نامناسب - بے محل - ناموزوں

VOCAB quick CHECK

addle - v. confuse.

adroit - adj. skillful.

arcane - adj. understood by few, mysterious.

ascetic - adj. characterized by the practice of severe self-discipline.

auger - n. a tool resembling a large corkscrew to bore holes.

aught - adv. anything at all.

augment - v. make greater by addition; increase.

augur - v. portend a good or bad outcome.

austere - adj. severe or strict in appearance or manner.

inexorable - adj. impossible to stop or prevent.

inexpedient - adj. not practical, suitable, or advisable.

inexpiable - adj. not practical, suitable, or advisable.

juxtapostion - n. place close together.

ornithologist - n. person who studies birds.

orthodontist - n. person who treats irregularities in teeth

orthographic - adj. how letters combine to represent sounds and form words.

prevail - v. be widespread or current.

procrastinate - v.delay or postpone action.

proliferate - v. increase rapidly in number.

proscribe - v. forbid, by law.

prosaic- adj. unromantic.

rearguard - n. the soldiers at the rear of a body of troops

reticent - adj. the soldiers at the rear of a body of troops.

staid - adj. respectable and unadventurous.

urbane - adj. suave, courteous, and refined.

urchin - n. a child who is poorly or raggedly dressed.

vanguard - n. a group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas.

vernacular - adj. the dialect spoken by the ordinary people of a country or region.

Challenge 12

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The fact that he had asthma attacks when he was young makes him more _____ to allergies now.
   (1) susceptible *(2) supercilious* *(3) superfluous* *(4) superstitious*

2. Your confession does not _____ you from your crime; you still have to face up to your mistakes.
   (1) exempt *(2) condone* *(3) pardon* *(4) exonerate*
   الزام سے بری کرنا، معاف کرنا

3. The _____ of life in a war-torn area demands that even young children learn how to shoot a gun.
   (1) exigencies *(2) emergencies* *(3) existences* *(4) exploitation*
   ہنگامی حالات

4. _____ is a traditional method of searching for sources of water underground.
   (1) Dowsing *(2) Drowning* *(3) Drowsing* *(4) Dousing*
   [illegible]

5. The King wore a simple _____ of beaten gold around his head that proclaimed his royalty and monarchial power.
   (1) diadem *(2) amulet* *(3) circlet* *(4) crucifix*
   [illegible]

6. The old _____-looking bicycle may look the worse for wear, but it is actually still serviceable.
   (1) depreciate *(2) decrepit* *(3) decayed* *(4) dilapidated*

7. Right and wrong is often asserted to be a _____ without any gray areas in between.
   (1) duo *(2) partnership* *(3) polemic* *(4) dichotomy*
   [illegible]

8. Rachael is one of the most spirited and _____ young lady I am acquainted with.
   (1) viscous *(2) vicarious* *(3) vicious* *(4) vivacious*
   [illegible]

9. I have made a _____ of each type of garment I will be selling in my shop so that the seamstresses I hire can use these models as references.
   (1) prototype *(2) copy* *(3) piece* *(4) quantity*

10. Although Harry was interested in Monica, he feigned nonchalance by gazing at her _____.
    (1) obligingly *(2) obliquely* *(3) opaquely* *(4) offensively*

11. Mr Ong is an oldies _____ and can go on talking about such songs for days.
    (1) addict *(2) aficionado* *(3) admiral* *(4) adept*

12. A secretary is required to keep _____ of the meeting and perform other administrative duties as well.
    (1) records *(2) tabs* *(3) notes* *(4) minutes*

VOCAB quick CHECK

adept - adj. skilled or proficient.
aficionado - n. a person who is knowledgeable about a subject.
amulet - n. an ornament to give protection against evil or danger
condone - v. accept or forgive behaviour considered wrong.
circlet - n. an ornamental circular band worn on the head.
crucifix - n. a representation of a cross with a figure of Christ.
decrepit - adj. worn out or ruined because of age or neglect.
diadem - n. a jewelled crown or headband worn as a symbol of sovereignty.
dichotomy - n. a division or contrast between two things that are opposed or entirely different.
douse - v. drench with liquid.
dowse - v. search for underground water.
drowse - v. be half asleep, doze.
exigency - n. an urgent need or demand.
exonerate - v. officially absolve from blame.
monarchial - adj. of a state ruled by a sovereign head such as a king, queen, or emperor.
nonchalance - n. calmness.
oblique - adj. neither parallel nor at right angles; slanting.
polemic - adj. involving strong or controversial debate.
prototype - n. a preliminary form from which other forms are developed or copied.
supercilious - adj. having an air of contemptuous superiority.
superfluous - adj. unnecessary.
susceptible - adj. likely to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing.
vicarious - adj. experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person.
viscous - adj. having a thick, sticky consistency between solid and liquid.
vivacious - adj. attractively lively and animated.

Challenge 13

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. A watch maker needs to have good eyesight as many components in the watch are extremely _____.
   (1) minute *(2) delicate* *(3) integrated* *(4) microscopic*
   [illegible]

2. The doctor advised Madam Teo to seek a second _____ from another doctor if she doubted his diagnosis.
   (1) opinion *(2) judgment* *(3) consultation* *(4) estimation*
   صلاح، مشورہ

3. The dove is traditionally seen as a _____ of peace and can often be seen on greeting cards.
   (1) harbinger *(2) forerunner* *(3) precedent* *(4) prototype*
   [illegible]

4. It is a/an _____ to believe that money is the solution to all our problems.
   (1) prophecy *(2) fallacy* *(3) allegory* *(4) metaphor*
   غلط خیال، دھوکہ

5. She has a _____ to exaggerate and tell tall tales, so take her words with a pinch of salt.
   (1) prophecy *(2) propensity* *(3) possibility* *(4) precedence*
   میلان، رجحان، رغبت

6. Their marriage only enjoyed a _____ bliss before arguments about money broke them up.
   (1) momentous *(2) transient* *(3) crucial* *(4) tranquil*
   عارضی، مختصر

7. Dick was shocked to hear the _____ tones of the snake's voice next to his ear.
   (1) sinful *(2) signatory* *(3) secretive* *(4) sibilant*
   [illegible]

8. In order to _____ a rich husband, Jayne makes sure that all the men she dates are affluent.
   (1) snare *(2) trap* *(3) lure* *(4) noose*
   [illegible]

9. Smoking is usually prohibited in national parks in Australia as it is considered a fire _____.
   (1) problem *(2) alarm* *(3) danger* *(4) hazard*
   خطرات

10. The breakup with his beloved girlfriend has left him dejected and _____ of late.
    (1) melancholic *(2) melodramatic* *(3) mercenary* *(4) mellow*

11. Universal _____ for women was not achieved until the 19th century when women were finally allowed to vote for their political leaders.
    (1) rights *(2) voting* *(3) suffrage* *(4) freedom*
    حق رائے دہی

12. Do not be rash and act in a _____ manner as you will only regret it one day.
    (1) precipitous *(2) predestined* *(3) premeditated* *(4) preposterous*
    بالکل بے معنی، بے ہودہ

VOCAB quick CHECK

allegory - n. a story, poem, or picture which can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning.
fallacy - n. a mistaken belief.
forerunner - n. a precursor.
harbinger - n. a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of something.
hazard - n. a danger or risk.
melancholic - adj. severely depressed
mellow - adj. (of a person's character) softened by maturity or experience.
melodramatic - adj. exaggerated or overemotional.
minute - adj. extremely small.
momentous - adj. of great importance or significance.
noose - v. tighten as the rope or wire is pulled.
precedence - n. the condition of preceding others in importance, order, or rank.
precipitous - adj. (of a change to a worse situation) sudden and dramatic.
premeditated - adj. think out or plan (an action, especially a crime) beforehand.
preposterous - adj. utterly absurd or ridiculous.
propensity - n. an inclination or tendency.
prophecy - n. a prediction.
prototype - n. a typical example; an archetype.
sibilant - adj. making or characterized by a hissing sound.
signatory - n. a party that has signed an agreement.
snare - v. catch.
suffrage - n. the right to vote in political elections.
transient - adj. lasting only for a short time.

Challenge 14

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Do you believe that dreams are _____ of misfortune and that they'll actually come true?
[✓ (1) presentiments] (2) predicaments (3) predictions (4) predestinations
[illegible]

2. "Mum, I need some _____ to style my hair! so that I won't have to go out of the house looking like a frizzy bear!" my brother yelled.
[✓ (1) mousse] (2) morose (3) muse (4) moose
[illegible]

3. If I cannot find a job in Lancaster, I will have no choice but to go _____ out a living in London.
(1) ink (2) irk (3) dig [✓ (4) eke]

4. Singapore prides itself in being a _____ where everyone has the chance to work hard and excel.
[✓ (1) meritocracy] (2) monarchy (3) monopoly (4) municipality
[illegible]

5. The knight drew a sword from his _____ and started the duel.
(1) scaffold [✓ (2) scabbard] (3) stallion (4) scallion
میان

6. My little sister gave a _____ of pain when the alcohol swab was applied to her wound.
[✓ (1) wince] (2) whine (3) whisk (4) whinny
[illegible]

7. The wicked man's lawyer pleaded insanity to _____ the severity of his crimes and therefore gained him a lighter sentence.
(1) migrate [✓ (2) mitigate] (3) misconstrue (4) merge
[illegible]

8. Jensen is considered to be _____ as he is always looking gloomy and pulls a long face.
(1) brawling (2) breeding [✓ (3) brooding] (4) braking
[illegible]

9. A government is said to be influenced by _____ if all the high positions are given only to officials who are related to those in power.
[✓ (1) nepotism] (2) authoritarianism (3) fascism (4) realism

10. The whole room was filled with _____ when Shuanna started telling her funny stories.
(1) glee (2) felicity (3) ecstasy [✓ (4) mirth]
[illegible]

11. The room was _____ with balloons and streamers to prepare for the party.
[✓ (1) festooned] (2) festered (3) feted (4) fettled
chain of flowers

12. Kathy is a very sophisticated lady who is always _____ in her appearance.
[✓ (1) immaculate] (2) emasculate (3) infamous (4) disreputable

VOCAB quick CHECK

brawl - v. take part in a fight.
eke - v. manage to make a living with difficulty.
emasculate - v. make weaker or less effective.
fascism - n. an authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government.
felicity - n. complete happiness.
fester - v. (of a wound or sore) become septic.
festoon - v. adorn with festoons or other decorations.
fete - v. honour or entertain lavishly.
fettle - v. trim or clean a piece of pottery before firing.
immaculate - adj. perfectly clean, neat, or tidy.
infamous - adj. well known for some bad quality or deed.
irk - v. irritate, annoy.
meritocracy - n. government by people selected according to merit.
mirth - n. amusement.
misconstrue - v. interpret wrongly.
mitigate - v. make less severe, serious, or painful.
moose - n. a large northern deer.
morose - adj. sullen and bad-tempered.
mousse - n. a soft, light, or aerated preparation for the skin or hair.
municipality - n. a town or district that has local government.
muse - n. a force personified as a woman.
nepotism - n. the favouring of relatives or friends.
presentiment - n. an intuitive foreboding about the future.
scabbard - n. a sheath for the blade of a sword or dagger.
scaffold - n. a temporary structure on the outside of a building.
scallion - n. a shallot or spring onion.
wince - n. give a slight involuntary grimace due to pain.
whinny n. a gentle, high-pitched neigh.

Challenge 15

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Even though this is only a friendly match between two classes, we still need a referee to _____.
[✓ (1) officiate] (2) participate (3) contribute (4) accessorise

2. _____ science calls for evidence, not high-flown theories and conjectures!
(1) Physical [✓ (2) Empirical] (3) Contemporary (4) Modern
تجرباتی اور مشاہداتی

3. His fever has reached a critical stage as he is already _____ and keeps repeating senseless utterances.
(1) diabetic (2) delicious (3) delinquent [✓ (4) delirious]
[illegible]

4. An _____ vote to support the project is needed at the meeting before we can proceed.
[✓ (1) unanimous] (2) undisputed (3) unabased (4) undaunted

5. The philandering President has been _____ from office after his people learnt of his misdeeds.
(1) impeached (2) vetoed [✓ (3) ousted] (4) touted
[illegible]

6. I do not really have my _____ about me right now as I just awoke from a deep sleep.
(1) responsiveness (2) sensibilities (3) mind [✓ (4) faculties]

7. The old _____ inherited all her husband's money when he passed away.
(1) matron [✓ (2) dowager] (3) matriarch (4) widow
[illegible]

8. He tends to become _____ when he is drunk and starts singing old sentimental love songs!
[✓ (1) self-pitiful] (2) lonely (3) emotional (4) distressed

9. I have an _____ horror of the dark which has not left me since childhood.
[✓ (1) implacable] (2) impalpable (3) implicit (4) impersonal
[illegible]

10. "Oh great! We have finally reached the _____ of this long and boring opera," my brother groaned loudly.
[✓ (1) finale] (2) finality (3) fatality (4) final

11. His morals are _____ as he is an extremely upright person.
[✓ (1) impeachable] (2) impious (3) insurmountable (4) impartial
[illegible]

12. This movie is a touching and _____ tale of love lost and won.
(1) dour [✓ (2) poignant] (3) arousing (4) distressing
تیز - سخت - چبھتا ہوا

VOCAB quick CHECK

accessorise - v. provide (a garment) with a fashion accessory.
arousing - adj. provoke to anger or other strong emotion.
conjecture - n. an opinion or conclusion based on incomplete information.
contemporary - adj. modern in style or design.
delinquent - n. young people tending to commit crime.
delirious - adj. in a state of wild excitement or ecstasy.
dour - adj. very severe, stern, or gloomy.
empirical - adj. solely on observation and experiment.
faculty - n. an inherent mental or physical power.
fatality - n. helplessness in the face of fate.
impalpable - adj. unable to be felt by touch.
impeach - v. call into question the integrity or validity of (a practice).
impious - adj. lacking piety or reverence.
implacable - adj. unable to be stopped.
implicit - adj. implied though not directly expressed.
insurmountable - adj. too great to be overcome.
matriach - n. a woman who is the head of a family.
matron - n. a woman in charge of domestic arrangements.
officiate - v. perform a religious service or ceremony.
oust - v. drive out or expel from a position or place.
philander - v. readily enter into casual sexual relationships with women.
poignant - adj. evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.
tout - v. attempt to sell something by a persistent approach.
unabased - adj. having no support.
unanimous - adj. fully in agreement.
undaunted - adj. not discouraged by difficulty or danger.
veto - v. refuse to accept or allow.

Challenge 16

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. My mother is a very _____ and tempestuous person whose moods keep changing.
[✓ (1) mercurial] (2) paranoid (3) intense (4) hysterical
2 [illegible]

2. Some people who object to the training of animals for performances have sent in a _____.
(1) proposition (2) rendition [✓ (3) petition] (4) patent
درخواست جس پر لوگوں کے دستخط ہوں

3. The earliest bird catches the biggest worm is a _____ you ought to remember if you wish to succeed in life.
(1) law [✓ (2) maxim] (3) theory (4) axiom
قول، کہاوت

4. Instead of speaking in a straight-forward manner, Terry made a whole series of _____ arguments that made everyone even more confused.
(1) intricate (2) sophisticated [✓ (3) convoluted] (4) complex
پیچیدہ، الجھا ہوا

5. Lost in the jungle, the hunters had to _____ for food in the woods.
(1) foray (2) frolic [✓ (3) forage] (4) forebear
ڈھونڈنا - خوراک تلاش کرنا

6. The child gurgled and _____ happily to herself as she played with her toys.
[✓ (1) burbled] (2) tattled (3) rambled (4) prattled

7. The groom put the _____ into the horse's mouth in an effort to control the animal.
(1) stirrups (2) blinkers (3) harness [✓ (4) bit] لگام

8. I am not surprised to learn of his mental breakdown as he always has a nervous _____.
[✓ (1) constitution] (2) disposition (3) preposition (4) institution

It is not worthwhile to lose your reputation for a night of _____ pleasure.
[✓ (1) ephemeral] (2) ethereal (3) eternal (4) episodic
عارضی، تھوڑی دیر کا [illegible]

He will be a good husband and a wonderful father; my only _____ is that he doesn't cook!
[✓ (1) grouse] (2) goose (3) goon (4) grouch

I do not wish to _____ this house as I feel that it is rather creepy.
(1) inhale (2) inhibit (3) inhabit [✓ (4) ingress]
داخل ہونا

The movie "The Fly" was about a possible _____ between man and fly.
(1) merge [✓ (2) symbiosis] (3) incorporation (4) absorption

VOCAB quick CHECK

axiom - n. an accepted proposition regarded as being self-evidently true.
bit - n. a metal mouthpiece to control a horse.
blinker - n. a pair of small screens attached to a horse's bridle.
burble - v. make a continuous murmuring noise.
constitution - n. a person's general state of health or temperament.
convoluted - adj. of an argument, story, or sentence extremely complex.
ephemeral - adj. having a very short life cycle.
episodic - adj. at irregular intervals.
ethereal - adj. extremely delicate and light.
forage - v. search widely for food or provisions.
foray - v. attempt to become involved in a new activity.
forebear - n. an ancestor.
frolic - v. play or move about in a cheerful and lively way.
goon - n. a foolish or eccentric person
grouse - n. a grumble or petty complaint.
ingress - v. enter.
maxim - n. a short statement expressing a general truth.
mercurial - adj. subject to sudden changes of mood or mind
patent - n. a government licence.
petition - n. a formal written request signed by many people.
prattle - v. talk at length in an inconsequential or foolish way.
rendition - n. a rendering of a dramatic, musical, or artistic work.
stirrup - n. each of a pair of devices at either side of a horse's saddle.
symbiosis - n. an interaction between two different organisms living in close association.
tattle - v. idle talk.
tempestuous - adj. characterized by strong and turbulent emotion.

Challenge 17

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Books in our school library are usually classified in _____ according to their subject matter.
(1) types (2) categories [✓ (3) genres] (4) classes

2. Scrooge was often accused of being _____ as he was unwillingly to spend a single cent extra on what he thought was unnecessary.
(1) prudish (2) mercenary (3) stringent [✓ (4) parsimonious]
بخیل، کفایت شعار

3. The prosecution could not convict the suspect of murder due to the _____ of overall evidence.
(1) absence [✓ (2) paucity] (3) presence (4) attendance
کمی، قلت

4. Most popular politicians are extremely eloquent and have a lot of personal _____ which inspire devotion from their supporters.
(1) charm (2) influence (3) allure [✓ (4) charisma]

5. Popular singer Stephanie Sun decided to undertake a _____ and take a break from her singing career.
(1) hibernation (2) hideout [✓ (3) hiatus] (4) haul

6. The hotel room, with beer bottles littered everywhere, bore signs of a drunken _____ last night.
[✓ (1) revelry] شراب نوشی کی محفل (2) rampage (3) reverie (4) revelation

7. He must be a very _____ writer as I have never heard of his works before.
[✓ (1) obscure] (2) obsolete (3) obviate (4) obsolescent

8. I have always admired her fresh complexion and _____ cheeks.
(1) vital (2) pale (3) hearty [✓ (4) ruddy] سرخ گالوں والا، لال لال

9. At Chinese funerals, it is a custom for descendents to follow the _____ that is taking the body to the crematorium.
[✓ (1) hearse] (2) shroud (3) coffin (4) wreath
تابوت لے جانے والی گاڑی [illegible]

10. Despite protests from her parents, Juliet insists on attending the _____ with Romeo.
(1) marinade (2) massacre (3) mosaic [✓ (4) masquerade]

11. A _____ is someone who is paralysed from the waist down.
(1) parasite (2) paraphernalia (3) paparazzi [✓ (4) paraplegic]

12. The sharp _____ taste of fresh lemon juice for breakfast perks me up every morning.
(1) rich [✓ (2) tangy] ترش (3) musky (4) saccharine

VOCAB quick CHECK

allure - n. powerful attraction or fascination.
genre - n. a style or category of art or literature.
hearse - n. a vehicle for conveying the coffin at a funeral.
hiatus - n. a gap in continuity.
hibernation - n. spending the winter in a dormant state.
marinade - n. a sauce in which meat, fish, or other food is soaked.
masquerade - n. a masked ball.
massacre - n. an indiscriminate and brutal slaughter of people.
mosaic - adj. a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of coloured stone, tile, or glass.
musky - adj. a strong-smelling substance secreted by the male musk deer.
obscure - adj. not discovered or known about.
obsolescent - adj. becoming obsolete.
obviate - v. avoid, prevent.
paparazzi - n. photographer who pursues celebrities to get photographs of them.
paraphernalia - n. equipment needed for a particular activity
paraplegic - n. person with paralysis of the legs and lower body.
parsimonious - adj. very unwilling to spend money or use resources
paucity - n. presence of something in only small amounts.
prudish - adj. easily offended or shocked by matters relating to sex or nudity.
rampage - n. rush around in an uncontrollable manner
revelry - n. lively and noisy festivities
reverie - n. a daydream
ruddy - adj. face having a healthy red colour.
saccharine - adj. excessively sweet or sentimental
stringent - adj. of regulations strict, precise, and exacting
tangy - adj. having a strong, piquant flavour or smell

Challenge 18

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. My _____ like to participate in office politics, so I always try to avoid them.
[✓ (1) colleagues] (2) associates (3) partners (4)superintendents

2. Comedies tend to exaggerate and portray _____ situations to make the audience laugh.
[✓ (1) farcical] (2) tragic (3) melodramatic (4) dramatic

3. The advertising _____ kicked off with a launch party at the discotheque followed by a series of promotion at various shopping centres.
[✓ (1) campaign] (2) promotion (3) crusade (4) endorsement

4. Many people died of starvation during the _____ in Russia of starvation.
[✓ (1) famine] (2) drought (3) flood (4) monsoon

5. You do not even know the bare _____ of fencing; much less be able to participate in the upcoming match!
(1) rubric [✓ (2) rudiments] (3) rituals (4) rations

6. Louis Vuitton bags with the "LV" _____ is a very popular fashion item especially among women.
(1) coat (2) emblem (3) crest [✓ (4) monogram]

7. Please try to write in a more _____ style, otherwise your markers will find it difficult to read your essays.
(1) audible (2) edible (3) credible [✓ (4) legible]

8. I feel a _____ in my heart each time I hear this song as my ex-girlfriend used to love singing it.
[✓ (1) pang] (2) slang (3) tang (4) fang

9. They played a practical joke on Mark by placing a _____ in his drink, causing him to frequent the toilet the whole night.
(1) tablet (2) medicine [✓ (3) laxative] (4) remedy

0. The angry woman accused Jenny of being a _____ and stealing her husband.
(1) harpy (2) harem . (3) harlequin [✓ (4) harlot]

Please accept my notice of resignation in _____ of a formal letter.
(1) respect [✓ (2) lieu] (3) view (4) exchange

The media _____ is still very influential even though he has recently been declared a bankrupt.
(1) mogul [✓ (2) magnate] (3) mongol (4) mongrel

VOCAB quick CHECK

crest - n. a distinctive heraldic device representing a family or corporate body.
crusade - n. a vigorous campaign with a political, social, or religious aim.
drought - n. a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall; a shortage of water.
endorsement - n. declaration of public approval.
emblem - n. a heraldic device or symbolic object as a distinctive badge of a nation, organization, or family.
famine - n. extreme scarcity of food.
farcical - adj. absurd or ridiculous.
harem - n. the wives (or concubines) of a polygamous man.
harlequin - n. a mute character in traditional pantomime
harlot - n. a prostitute or promiscuous woman.
harpy - adj. a grasping or unpleasant woman.
lieu - n. instead of.
magnate - n. a wealthy and influential businessman or businesswoman.
melodramatic - adj. exaggerated or overemotional.
mogul - n. an important or powerful person.
mongrel - n. a dog of no definable type or breed.
monogram - n. a motif of two or more interwoven letters, typically a person's initials.
pang - n. a sudden sharp pain or painful emotion.
rubric - n. a set of instructions or rules.
rudiment - n. the first principles of a subject.
tang - n. a strong taste, flavour, or smell.

Shamer
Notionals
Plagiarize

Mr monsieur
French

Challenge 19

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. He felt a sudden _____ of rage at the hypocritical lies made by his colleague.
[✓ (1) twinge] (2) seizure (3) shudder (4) tinge

2. His pretence at knowing how to play the piano is all a _____.
[✓ (1) sham] (2) parody (3) farce (4) spoof

3. There are many _____ and layers of meaning that can be unravelled from this novel.
(1) tinges (2) pointers [✓ (3) nuances] (4) degrees

4. The government held a _____ to decide if Singapore should separate from Malaysia.
(1) vote (2) election (3) poll [✓ (4) referendum]

5. I will read this article and _____ the jargon found in it so that it will be easier for you to understand.
[✓ (1) paraphrase] (2) repeat (3) replicate (4) duplicate

6. The Emperors in China for two thousands years were considered to rule by the _____ of heaven.
[✓ (1) mandate] (2) favour (3) privilege (4) consent

7. If you copy someone else's work and try to pass it off as your own, you will be accused of _____.
[✓ (1) plagiarism] (2) theft (3) vice (4) smuggling

8. The long wait for the movie star caused the crowd to become impatient and _____.
(1) sedative (2) festive [✓ (3) restive] (4) seductive

9. These _____ gloves are made from goats' skin.
[✓ (1) kid] (2) leather (3) skin (4) soft

10. I always fall asleep while attending Mr Ong's lectures as he tends to speak in a _____ voice.
(1) melodious [✓ (2) monotonous] (3) mundane (4) mellifluous

11. A multi-cultural society is often _____; anyone immersing in the different cultures would find it an interesting experience.
(1) synchronised (2) monolingual (3) homogeneous [✓ (4) heterogeneous]

12. The _____ of porcelain vases displayed in the antique cupboard are all works of art created by the pottery master.
(1) exhibition (2) disarray (3) demonstration [✓ (4) array]

VOCAB quick CHECK

array - n. an impressive display or range of a particular thing.
disarray - n. a state of disorganization or untidiness.
farce - n. a comic dramatic work.
heterogeneous - adj. diverse in character or content.
kid - n. leather made from a young goat's skin.
mandate - n. an official order or commission to do something.
mellifluous - adj. pleasingly smooth and musical to hear.
mundane - adj. lacking interest or excitement.
nuance - n. a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, colour.
paraphrase - v. express the meaning of (something) using different words.
parody - n. an imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect.
porcelain - n. a white vitrified translucent ceramic; china.
referendum - n. a general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision.
replicate - v. make an exact copy of; reproduce.
restive - adj. restless.
sedative - adj. promoting calm or inducing sleep.
seizure - n. a sudden attack of illness.
sham - n. pretence.
shudder - n. tremble or shake convulsively, especially from fear or repugnance.
seizure - n. a sudden attack of stroke or an epileptic fit.
spoof - n. a hoax.
synchronise - v. cause to occur or operate at the same time or rate.
tinge - n. a slight trace.
twinge - n. a brief, sharp pang of emotion.
unravel - v. investigate and solve (a mystery or puzzle).
vice - n. immoral or wicked behaviour.

Challenge 20

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. It is difficult for a _____ to understand the technical terms that are often used in medical journals.
(1) beginner [✓ (2) layman] (3) apprentice (4) novice
غیر فنی - عام آدمی

2. The woman begged the judge to _____ the injustice that was done to her by the corrupt policeman.
[✓ (1) redress] (2) address (3) profess (4) harass
ازالہ کرنا

3. The flames of burning love _____ in his heart as he watches strolls hand in hand with her in the evening rain.
(1) kiln (2) keel (3) kin [✓ (4) kindle]
جلانا، سلگانا

4. Historical _____ such as papyrus documents must be carefully preserved for future research purposes.
[✓ (1) antiquities] (2) antiques (3) artifacts (4) archaeology

5. Some people prefer to practise _____ during elections by not voting at all.
(1) absolution (2) abstinence (3) absenteeism [✓ (4) abstention]

6. _____ people do not accept that they have to measure up to any standard or religious moral systems.
[✓ (1) Amoral] (2) Immoral (3) Unprincipled (4) Degenerate

7. The _____ man was able to write extremely well with both his right and left hands.
(1) dexterous [✓ (2) ambidextrous] (3) effeminate (4) nimble
دونوں ہاتھوں کو برابر استعمال کرنے والا

8. _____ was finally given to the political prisoners after a long and arduous trial.
(1) Acquittal [✓ (2) Amnesty] (3) Mercy (4) Forgiveness
عام معافی

9. Usually, a group of _____ would assist the King in the ruling of the country.
(1) burghers (2) monarchs [✓ (3) aristocrats] (4) gentries

10. Politicians usually have to wage a long campaign before the elections to _____ for votes.
[✓ (1) canvass] (2) ask (3) beg (4) petition
ووٹ طلب کرنا

11. The old war _____ was invited to speak about his experiences to a class of primary school children.
(1) specialist (2) amateur (3) professional [✓ (4) veteran]

12. The trees in the poem _____ the steadfastness of human friendship.
(1) exemplify [✓ (2) personify] (3) petrify (4) simplify

VOCAB quick CHECK

absolution - n. formal release from guilt or punishment.
abstention - n. an instance of abstaining from a vote.
abstinence - n. practice of abstaining, especially from drinking alcohol.
acquittal - n. a judgement or verdict that a person is not guilty of a criminal charge
amateur - n. a person considered inept at an activity
ambidexterous - adj. able to use the right and left hands equally well
amnesty - n. an official pardon for people convicted of political offences
amoral - adj. lacking a moral sense, unconcerned whether something is right or wrong
antiquity - n. an object or building from the distant past
aristocrat - n. a member of the aristocracy
artifact - n. an object made by a human being
artifice - n. clever devices to trick or deceive others
apprentice - n. a person learning a trade from a skilled employer
burgher - n. a citizen of a town or city
canvass - v. solicit votes from electors
degenerate - v. showing evidence of decline
dexterous - adj. showing or having dexterity, adroit
effeminate - adj. of a man having characteristics regarded as typical of a woman
gentry - n. people of good social position
keel - n. a lengthwise structure along the base of a ship
kiln - n. a furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying
kindle - v. arouse or be aroused.
monarch - n. a sovereign head of state
petrify - v. paralyse with fear
redress - v. set upright again
veteran - n. a person who has had long experience in a particular field

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Challenge 21

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. We saw how honey was extracted from bee hives in the _____.
(1) abattoir (2) aviary [✓ (3) apiary] (4) academy

2. Hilary reached the _____ of her journalistic career when she was finally awarded the Pulitzer Prize.
[✓ (1) acme] (2) climax (3) epitome (4) summit

3. I am an _____ as I do not believe in any religion.
(1) agnostic (2) amateur [✓ (3) atheist] (4) athletic

4. Germany had to pay millions of dollars to the allied countries as _____ after World War One.
(1) debts [✓ (2) reparation] (3) stipend (4) revenue

5. The fashion of the eighties is always being _____ by designers as this trend is well-received in the market.
[✓ (1) revived] (2) executed (3) kindled (4) promoted

6. My job consisted of planning and _____ computer courses for professionals.
(1) educating [✓ (2) executing] (3) exhilarating (4) accelerating

7. Parsimony is the _____ of spendthrift.
[✓ (1) antonym] (2) anonymous (3) synonym (4) autonomous

8. Even though others think of me as _____, I prefer to think that I am merely thrifty.
[✓ (1) parsimonious] (2) frugal (3) prudent (4) economical

9. The walls of the great hall are decorated with a _____ depicting Christ's birth and other important biblical events.
[✓ (1) fresco] (2) fiasco (3) fiesta (4) fracas

10. The police told the man to stand with his hands against the wall and started _____ him for the hidden weapons.
(1) investigating (2) rummaging [✓ (3) frisking] (4) exploring

11. I do not like living in the countryside as I do not think that there are enough _____ such as swimming pools and movie theatres.
(1) amusement [✓ (2) amenities] (3) amendments (4) facilities

12. The widow was provided with an _____ from her husband's property every year for the remainder of her life.
(1) annulment (2) annual (3) annul [✓ (4) annuity]

VOCAB quick CHECK

abbatoir - n. a slaughterhouse
academy - n. a place of study or training in a special field
acme - n. the highest point of achievement or excellence
agnostic - n. a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God
annuity - n. a fixed sum of money paid to someone each year, typically for the rest of their life
annul - v. declare (a law or contract, especially that of marriage) invalid
apiary - n. a place where bees are kept
atheism - n. disbelief in the existence of a god or gods
autonomous - adj. free to act
aviary - n. a large enclosure for keeping birds in
epitome - n. a person or thing that is a perfect example of (a quality or type)
execute - v. perform (an activity or manoeuvre)
[illegible] - n. disbelief in the existence of a god or gods
fiesta - n. a festive event
fracas - n. a noisy disturbance or quarrel
fresco - n. a type of painting done in watercolour on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling
frisk - v. search for hidden weapons or drugs
kindle - v. arouse or be aroused
parsimonious - adj. very unwilling to spend money or use resources
prudent - adj. acting with or showing care and thought for the future
reparation - n. the compensation for war damage paid by a defeated state
rummage - v. search unsystematically and untidily for something
stipend - n. a fixed regular sum paid as a salary or as expenses to a clergyman, teacher, or public official

Challenge 22

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. That company has high _____ as most of its assets can be easily converted into cash.
   (1) liquid (2) liquidate (3) liquefy [✓ (4) liquidity]
2. He _____ an oath of surprise and anger when the door shut suddenly on his hand.
   [✓ (1) ejaculated] (2) proclaimed (3) announced (4) broadcasted
3. The _____ for this job is two thousand dollars a month.
   (1) remonstration (2) reprobation [✓ (3) remuneration] (4) reimbursement
4. "Young men are not aware of their own _____ and that's why they feel so invincible," the old sage cautioned.
   [✓ (1) mortality] (2) mobility (3) morality (4) morbidity
5. The King decided to _____ his throne after he got weary of his royal status.
   [✓ (1) abdicate] (2) resign (3) terminate (4) forsake
6. Certain religions promote _____ from alcohol as it is considered a temptation that interferes with rational thinking.
   (1) deterrence (2) avoidance [✓ (3) abstinence] (4) evasion
7. He is one of the most respected wine _____ in the world and is always invited to wine tasting ceremonies.
   (1) tutor (2) drinker [✓ (3) connoisseurs] (4) expert
8. _____ does not always lead to friendship as the ill relations between my two cousins prove.
   (1) Relativity [✓ (2) Consanguinity] (3) Sociability (4) Hospitality
9. Please place your cup on the _____ provided, so as not to leave a mark on the table.
   [✓ (1) coaster] (2) place-mat (3) table runner [✓ (4) doily]
10. The violin _____ gave an astounding performance just now and received overwhelming applause from the audience.
    (1) expert (2) authority [✓ (3) virtuoso] (4) connoisseur
11. His performance was met with a standing _____ and everybody demanded an encore.
    (1) applause (2) reception [✓ (3) ovation] (4) eulogy
12. The country's _____ has been nearly emptied by the series of corrupt dictators.
    (1) possessions (2) bank (3) account [✓ (4) coffers]

VOCAB quick CHECK

abdicate - v. renounce the throne.
abstinence - n. the fact or practice of abstaining, especially from drinking alcohol.
astounding - adj. surprising
coaster - n. a small mat for a glass.
coffers - n. the funds or financial reserves of an institution.
connoisseur - n. an expert judge in matters of taste.
consanguinity - n. people descended from the same ancestor.
deterrence - n. prevention against someone from doing something.
doily - n. a small ornamental mat made of lace or paper, put on a plate under sweet food.
ejaculate - v. say something quickly and suddenly.
eulogy - n. a speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly.
liquefy - v. make or become liquid.
liquidate - v. convert (assets) into cash.
liquidity - n. the availability of liquid assets to a market or company.
morbidity - n. abnormal and unhealthy interest in unpleasant subjects, especially death and disease.
ovation - n. a sustained show of appreciation, especially applause, from an audience.
relativity - n. absence of standards of absolute and universal application.
reimbursement - n. repay a sum of money that was spent or lost.
remonstration - n. a forcefully reproachful protest.
remuneration - n. payment for services rendered or work done.
reprobation - n. lack of principles.
virtuoso - n. a person highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit.
weary - adj. tired.

Challenge 23

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The military facility is housed in a large _____ with extremely tight security.
   (1) campsite [✓ (2) compound] (3) campus (4) courtyard
11. The housewife started pounding and grinding the chili with her _____.
    (1) paddle (2) mortar (3) peddle [✓ (4) pestle]
2. I have just bought a set of _____ which goes wonderfully with my plate service and gives my table setting a new elegance.
   (1) utensils (2) crockery [✓ (3) cutlery] (4) equipment
4. The words "Post" and "Stop" form a pair of _____.
   [✓ (1) anagrams] (2) antonyms (3) enigmas (4) algorithms
5. I decided to make the _____ on my grandfather's tombstone simple but poignant by abstracting a verse from the literary prose.
   (1) ellipsis (2) elegy (3) eulogy [✓ (4) epitaph]
6. The _____ was disliked by the rest of her colleagues for her shameless flirting with her superiors.
   [✓ (1) coquette] (2) amour (3) beau (4) courtesan
7. Her _____ about exposing her colleague's embezzlement led to her being charged for perjury in court eventually.
   (1) oscillation [✓ (2) ambivalence] (3) ambiguity (4) intemperance
8. The _____ teenager is having a bout of acne brought on by the changes in her hormonal levels.
   (1) obsolescent (2) adolescent [✓ (3) pubescent] (4) convalescent
9. Karen expressed anger and _____ when she was unfairly accused of cheating.
   (1) designation (2) resignation [✓ (3) indignation] (4) apprehension
10. My parents put an _____ in the newspapers to inform all relatives when my grandmother passed away.
    [✓ (1) obituary] (2) eulogy (3) advertisement (4) elegy
11. The lady held up her skirts and made a _____ to the Queen in a gesture of respect.
    (1) curtsy (2) bow (3) salute [✓ (4) genuflection]
12. Susanna was granted an _____ of two thousand dollars a month after she divorced her husband.
    (1) allowance [✓ (2) alimony] (3) income (4) expenditure

VOCAB quick CHECK

adolescent - adj. in the process of developing from a child into an adult.
algorithm - n. set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations
alimony - n. maintenance for a spouse after separation or divorce.
ambivalence - n. mixed feelings or opinions about something or someone.
amour - n. a love affair or lover, especially a secret one.
anagram - n. a word, phrase, or name formed by rearranging the letters of another.
apprehension - n. anxious or fearful anticipation.
bout - n. an attack of illness or strong emotion.
convalescent - adj. recovering from an illness or medical treatment.
coquette - n. a flirtatious woman.
~~**courtesan** - n. a prostitute.~~
elegy - n. a mournful poem, typically a lament for the dead.
ellipsis - n. the omission of words from speech or writing.
enigma - n. a mysterious or puzzling person or thing.
epitaph - n. an inscription on a tombstone.
eulogy - n. a speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly
genuflection - n. bending of knee to worship or respect.
indignation - n. anhoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment.
intemperance - n. excessive indulgence, in alcohol.
mortar - n. a cup-shaped receptacle in which ingredients are crushed or ground in cooking.
obituary - n. a notice of a person's death in a newspaper.
obsolescent - adj. becoming obsolete.
pestle - n. a tool for grinding substances in a mortar.
pubescent - adj. stage at which adolescents reach sexual maturity.

Challenge 24

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. "Passing away" is an _____ for "dying" and is used more often than the latter word.
   (1) epilogue (2) eulogy (3) epigram (4) euphemism
   کڑوی بات کو نرم الفاظ میں بیان کرنا

2. As a member of the legislative council, you must not _____ the very laws you are supposed to uphold.
   (1) tout (2) taunt (3) flout (4) flaunt

3. The _____ song and dance act put up by Jeremy on the spot was very well-received.
   (1) sporting (2) impulsive (3) sportive (4) spontaneous
   بے اختیاری، بلا ارادہ، خود کار

4. Aspirin is a _____ which relieves pain even if it does not cure the disease that causes that pain.
   (1) laxative (2) palliative (3) sedative (4) relative
   درد کو کم کرنے والا

5. The _____ is the top layer of the skin.
   (1) epidermis (2) epitome (3) epilogue (4) epitaph
   جلد کا اوپری حصہ

6. Hilary's enviable figure has not changed over the years and she is still extremely _____.
   (1) svelte (2) suave (3) swain (4) swag

7. The theatre _____ is going to play the lead character in "Miss Saigon".
   (1) mogul (2) connoisseur (3) expert (4) thespian
   اداکار یا اداکارہ

8. The paralysed woman laid _____ on the hospital bed, unable to move and talk.
   (1) supine (2) sundry (3) sultry (4) supple
   پیٹھ کے بل لیٹا ہوا

9. China used to exercise its _____ over many South East Asian countries during the 18th century by controlling the foreign policies of these countries.
   (1) subjectivity (2) sovereignty (3) supplication (4) supremacy
   بادشاہت

10. Her dishonesty served as a _____ to the speedy termination of her employment.
    (1) catastrophe (2) catapult (3) catalogue (4) catalyst

11. Victorian men used to tie a _____ around their necks as an accessory.
    (1) cravat (2) flounce (3) ribbon (4) petticoat
    ٹائی، گلوبند، مفلر

12. Christians believe that the Bible gives the _____ truth about the omnipresent God that created the cosmos.
    (1) categorise (2) catalogue (3) category (4) categorical

VOCAB quick CHECK

catastrophe - n. an event causing great damage or suffering.
categorical - adj. unambiguously explicit and direct.
connoisseur - n. an expert judge in matters of taste.
cravat - n. a strip of fabric worn by men round the neck.
epidermis - n. the surface of the skin of an animal
epigram - n. a concise and witty saying or remark.
epilogue - n. a section or speech at the end of a book or play as a comment on what happened.
epitaph - n. words written in memory of a person who has died.
epitome - n. a person or thing that is a perfect example of.
eulogy - n. a speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly.
euphemism - n. a mild word substituted for one that is harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant.
flaunt - v. display ostentatiously.
flout - v. openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention).
mogul - n. an important or powerful person.
palliative - adj. relieving pain or alleviating a problem without dealing with the cause.
sovereignty - n. the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.
sultry - adj. (of a woman) suggesting a sexual nature.
supine - adj. lying face upwards.
supple - adj. flexible or pliant.
supplication - n. beg for something earnestly or humbly.
sundry - n. of various kinds.
svelte - adj. (of a person) slender and elegant.
swag - n. an ornamental festoon of flowers, fruit, and greenery.
swain - n. a young lover.
taunt - v. mock to provoke.
thespian - n. an actor or actress.
tout - v. attempt to sell (something), typically by a direct or persistent approach.

Challenge 25

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Please do not try to _____ the truth of the matter any longer by telling more lies.
   (1) obliterate (2) efface (3) controvert (4) eradicate
   مسخ کرنا، مٹانا

2. Ted Johnson has been linked to the _____ homicide with four unidentified victims.
   (1) quadruple (2) dual (3) mono (4) triple

3. The prisoner was decapitated at the _____ in front of thousands of commoners.
   (1) garage (2) gantry (3) garrotte (4) gibbet
   سولی۔ پھانسی کا تختہ

4. The three matrix movies form a _____.
   (1) trilogy (2) prelude (3) sequel (4) chapter

5. The King expects some form of _____ from their subject, such as a salute or a bow, to mark their respect for his authority.
   (1) contribution (2) obeisance (3) offering (4) obedience
   سلام۔ تعظیم۔ احترام

6. The _____ party, comprising the three most influential factions in government, has won the election.
   (1) trio (2) enormous (3) coalition (4) association
   سیاسی جماعتوں کا اتحاد

7. It is my _____ to decide if I wish to continue this partnership with you.
   (1) prerogative (2) testimonial (3) resolution (4) verdict
   استحقاق، خصوصی حق

8. The _____ is used for measuring atmospheric pressure.
   (1) barometer (2) pedometer (3) altimeter (4) chronometer
   instrument used for measuring Atmospherical pressure.

9. The soldier used his _____ to stab his victim before killing himself.
   (1) bayonet (2) barricade (3) barracks (4) baron
   سنگین

10. The eagle laid its eggs in an _____ built among the towering cliff on the mountainside.
    (1) eyrie (2) apex (3) aerial (4) alp
    عقاب کا گھونسلہ

11. My investigations have uncovered a lost manuscript which I believe is the _____ in Shakespeare's last incomplete work.
    (1) essay (2) journal (3) lacuna (4) minutes
    خلا، کمی

12. The old general has been highly _____ for his efforts during World War Two.
    (1) decorated (2) decorum (3) décor (4) decorous
    اعزاز دینا

VOCAB quick CHECK

altimeter - n. an instrument for determining altitude.
apex - n. a system of reduced fares for flights and railway journeys.
barometer - n. an instrument measuring atmospheric pressure.
baron - n. a powerful person in business or industry.
barricade - n. an improvised barrier erected to obstruct the movement of opposing forces.
bayonet - n. a long blade fixed to the muzzle of a rifle for use in hand-to-hand fighting.
chronometer - n. an instrument for measuring time accurately.
coalition - n. a temporary alliance forming a government.
controvert - v. deny the truth.
decorum - n. behaviour in keeping with good taste.
decorous - adj. in keeping with good taste and propriety.
efface - v. erase (a mark) from a surface
eradicate - v. remove or destroy completely.
eyrie - n. a large nest of an eagle or other bird of prey, built high in a tree or on a cliff.
garrotte - n. a length of wire or cord to kill by strangulation.
gibbet - n. gallows.
lacuna - n. a gap or missing portion.
manuscript - n. a handwritten book, document, or music.
obesisance - n. deferential respect.
obliterate - v. destroy utterly, wipe out.
pedometer - n. an instrument for estimating the distance travelled on foot by recording the number of steps taken.
prelude - n. an action or event serving as an introduction to something more important.
prerogative - n. a right or privilege exclusive to a particular individual or class.
quadruple - n. consisting of four parts or elements.
trilogy - n. a group of three related novels, plays, films, etc.

Challenge 26

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The surprising conception of their second child was wholly _____ and not planned at all.
   [✓ (1) adventitious] (2) advent (3) adventurous (4) adventure
2. The historical _____ gives us a good idea of what old Singapore was like in the 18th century.
   (1) annex [✓ (2) annals] (3) annotation (4) annual
3. Charlotte enjoys _____ herself in order to make herself more attractive.
   [✓ (1) titivating] (2) titillating (3) tarrying (4) tattling
4. The senile man in his _____ gave away all his money by throwing it out of the balcony!
   (1) decline [✓ (2) dotage] (3) decadence (4) disillusion
5. The _____ man tried to flatter his boss to get into his good books, but his boss saw through him at once.
   [✓ (1) ingratiating] (2) ingrate (3) ungrateful (4) ingenuous
6. His minor shoplifting _____ will land him in jail one day, unless he decides to kick his bad habit.
   [✓ (1) peccadillo] (2) pecularity (3) perk (4) perversion
7. The _____ of today's meeting will cover the marketing plans of our latest product.
   (1) debrief (2) brief [✓ (3) agenda] (4) memorandum
8. The students decided to _____ and improvise on their badly-written play on the actual performance day itself.
   (1) ad hoc [✓ (2) ad lib] (3) ad nauseam (4) ad infinitum
9. _____ is a fear of enclosed spaces, but this is a symptom that can be overcome.
   [✓ (1) Claustrophobia] (2) Agoraphobia (3) Hydrophobia (4) Arachnophobia
10. _____ is concerned with the origins of different words in various languages.
    (1) Neologism [✓ (2) Etymology] (3) Ethnology (4) Anthropology
11. During the ritual, the taoist lit the _____ before putting the burning piece of paper into the small cup placed at the altar.
    (1) tarot [✓ (2) talisman] (3) tail (4) talesman
12. Unidentified bodies are usually kept in the _____ before being sent to the crematorium.
    (1) memorandum (2) memorial [✓ (3) mortuary] (4) monastery

VOCAB quick CHECK

agoraphobia - n. irrational fear of open or public places.

ad hoc - adv. formed, arranged, or done for a particular purpose

ad infinitum - adv. endlessly

ad lib - adv. spoken without advance preparation.

ad nauseam - adv. to a tiresomely excessive degree.

advent - n. the arrival of a notable person or thing.

adventitious - adj. happening according to chance.

annal - n. a record of the events of one year.

annex - n. an addition to a document.

annotation - n. notes added to (a text or diagram) giving explanation or comment.

arachnophobia - n. extreme or irrational fear of spiders.

debrief - n. question (someone, typically a soldier or spy) about a completed undertaking.

dotage - n. the period of life in which a person is old and weak.

ethnology - n. study of the characteristics of different peoples and the differences and relationships between them.

etymology - n. an account of the origins and the developments in meaning of a word.

ingenous - adj. clever, original.

ingratiating - adj. bring oneself into favour with someone by flattering or trying to please them.

memorandum - n. a written message in business.

neologism - n. a newly coined word or expression.

peccadillo - n. a minor sin or fault.

talesman - n. a person summoned by a tales.

talisman - n. an object thought to have magic powers and to bring good luck.

tarot - n. a pack of 78 with five suits, used for fortune-telling.

tarry - v. covered with tar.

tattle - v. gossip; idle talk.

titillate - v. excite or interest.

titivate - v. make oneself look smart.

Challenge 27

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The soft suede handbag is so _____ and luxurious to the touch!
   (1) radiant (2) pliable [✓ (3) lambent] (4) malleable
2. The girls must be accompanied by a _____, otherwise I will not allow them to go for this excursion.
   (1) charlatan (2) chapel (3) chauffeur [✓ (4) chaperone]
3. Please send your _____ over as we need to scan through your curriculum vitae before we will shortlist you for the interview.
   [✓ (1) resumé] (2) portfolio (3) credentials (4) testimonial
4. Most country families are employed in _____ pursuits on their farm. The most popular crop to be cultivated being wheat.
   (1) rustic [✓ (2) agrarian] (3) domestic (4) agricultural
5. The blacksmith took a hammer and started beating the metal bar resting on the _____ into shape.
   [✓ (1) anvil] (2) axle (3) awl (4) antenna
6. This is the _____ chance I am giving you. Any further problems from you and you are out of here!
   [✓ (1) penultimate] (2) ultimatum (3) antepenultimate (4) ultimate
7. The supplier is cheating us of our money by _____ the wine with othe inferior substances.
   [✓ (1) adulterating] (2) compounding (3) mixing (4) administering
8. Please do not try to _____ responsibility for this matter. Instead, try to find ways to solve the problem.
   (1) shun [✓ (2) shirk] (3) strive (4) shrink
9. In the movie, the Captain Jack decided to _____ the ship and let it sink rather than let the haunted ship dock at the harbour.
   (1) suffer [✓ (2) scupper] (3) scuttle (4) scurry
10. The disciple is full of _____ praises for his mentor who taught him all the tricks to the trade.
    (1) adulatory (2) adulterate (3) adultery [✓ (4) adulation]
11. The diamond _____ under the glowing light from the evening dusk and looked simply magnificient.
    [✓ (1) scintillated] (2) titillated (3) reflected (4) refracted
12. The typhoon was a _____ which wiped out half the country's livestock.
    [✓ (1) catastrophe] (2) catalyst (3) turmoil (4) pandemonium

VOCAB quick CHECK

administer - v. dispense (a drug or remedy).

adulation - n. excessive admiration

adulterate - v. make (something) poorer in quality by adding another substance.

antepenultimate - adj. last but two in a series.

agrarian - adj. relating to cultivated land or agriculture.

anvil - n. a heavy iron block on which metal can be shaped.

awl - n. a small pointed tool used for piercing holes.

catastrophe - n. an event causing great damage or suffering.

chaperone - n. an older woman responsible for the behaviour of a young unmarried girl.

charlatan - n. a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill

compound - v. make up (a composite whole).

credential - n. a qualification, achievement.

curriculum vitae - n. account of a person's education, qualifications, and previous occupations for a job application.

lambent - adj. glowing or flickering with a soft radiance.

malleable - adj. easily influenced, pliable.

pandemonium - n. wild and noisy disorder or confusion.

penultimate - adj. last but one

pliable - adj. flexible

refract - v. change the direction of propagation of (radio, sound, or other waves).

rustic - adj. of or characteristic of life in the country.

scintillate - v. emit flashes of light, sparkle.

scupper - v. a hole in a ship's side to allow water to run away from the deck.

scuttle - v. run hurriedly or furtively with short quick steps.

shirk - v. avoid or neglect (a duty or responsibility).

turmoil - n. a state of great disturbance, confusion.

ultimatum - n. statement of terms

Flung away the Scabbard

Challenge 28

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The _____ at the end of the great sword was decorated with a red ruby.
   (1) shield (2) scaffold [✓ (3) scabbard] (4) blade
2. The royal apartments in Versailles are extremely grand and _____, reflective of the high social status in France.
   (1) palate [✓ (2) palatial] (3) pedestal (4) palatal
3. The editor warned the journalist that Elton John should always be addressed by the right _____; that is as 'Sir Elton John'.
   (1) apparition (2) appearance (3) appendix [✓ (4) appellation]
4. Despite the _____ living conditions, Anthony did not complain of the hardship and strived on with perseverence.
   [✓ (1) austere] (2) austral (3) auspice (4) auspicious
5. A _____ is a female sheep.
   (1) nanny (2) sow (3) doe [✓ (4) ewe]
6. The enthusiastic audience stamped their feet and shouted for a/ an _____ of the three most popular tunes.
   [✓ (1) encore] (2) repetition (3) encounter (4) endeavour
7. The _____ of the play was the recurring storm that symbolises tempestuousness and rage.
   (1) imagery (2) motif (3) emblem [✓ (4) metaphor]
8. The professor stood at the _____ and arranged his notes on its sloping surface before clearing his throat and commencing the lecture.
   (1) stage (2) podium (3) pedestal [✓ (4) lectern]
9. _____ is a branch of medical care that is specifically devoted to children.
   [✓ (1) Pediatrics] (2) Obstetrics (3) Podiatry (4) Geriatrics
10. Jane's _____, the person who used to occupy her present position, left the company because she had been caught for embezzlement.
    (1) forerunner (2) ancestor (3) forebear [✓ (4) predecessor]
11. The differently pitched voices of the choirboys blended into a melodious and harmonious _____.
    [✓ (1) euphony] (2) cacophony (3) kaleidoscope (4) crescendo
12. The _____ Maoris were the first to settle in New Zealand, even before the British.
    (1) native (2) original [✓ (3) aboriginal] (4) nationalist

VOCAB quick CHECK

aboriginal - adj. inhabiting or existing in a land from the earliest times.
apparition - n. a remarkable thing making a sudden appearance.
appellation - n. a name or title
appendix - n. a section of subsidiary matter at the end of a book.
austere - adj. lacking comforts, luxuries, or adornment.
cacophony - n. a harsh discordant mixture of sounds.
cresecendo - n. a gradual increase in loudness in a piece of music.
doe - n. a female hare, rabbit, rat, ferret, or kangaroo.
emblem - n. a heraldic device or symbolic object as a distinctive badge of a nation, organization, or family.
endeavour - n. earnest and industrious effort.
euphony - n. the quality of having a pleasant sound.
ewe - n. a female sheep.
geriatrics - n. an old person, especially one receiving special care.
lectern - n. a tall stand with a sloping top from which a speaker can read while standing up.
motif - n. a single or recurring image forming a design.
nationalist - n. patriot.
obsterics - n. relating to childbirth.
palatal - adj. relating to the palate.
palatial - adj. like a palace.
pediatrics - n. branch of medicine concerned with children and their diseases.
podiatry - n. treatment of the feet and their ailments.
recurring - adj. occuring again.
scabbard - n. a sheath for the blade of a sword or dagger.
scaffold - n. a raised wooden platform used formerly for public executions.
tempestuous - adj. characterized by strong and turbulent emotion.

Diana

Challenge 29

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. His _____ is reflected by the generosity of his donations to the school's building fund.
   [✓ (1) munificence] (2) benevolence (3) malevolence (4) magnificence
2. If you do not feel hungry enough to take a heavy meal at this unusual hour, then let's just order a light _____.
   (1) brunch (2) banquet [✓ (3) collation] (4) collection
3. Many men grow _____ in their middle ages, developing fat tummies and hanging jowls.
   (1) opulent (2) succulent (3) cherubic [✓ (4) corpulent]
4. Turks used to use curved _____ in wars against their enemies.
   [✓ (1) scythes] (2) sticks (3) sickles (4) skewers
5. I cannot stand her nit-picking anymore. It seems that all this _____ woman wants to do is to quibble over the most trifling issues!
   [✓ (1) captious] (2) capricious (3) contentious (4) conscientious
6. Joanne, the best student in the school, is always held up by the principal to be a _____ of virtue.
   [✓ (1) paragon] (2) paramour (3) parable (4) paradigm
7. Maggie is one of the most _____ women I have ever seen and her full-bodied figure is admired by many.
   [✓ (1) voluptuous] (2) urbane (3) sophisticated (4) cosmopolitan
8. Her sanguinity makes her the _____ among us and we always look to her for a positive outlook in life.
   [✓ (1) optimist] (2) pessimist (3) pacifist (4) fatalist
9. The _____ is a medical officer who works hand in hand with the police to investigate suspicious deaths.
   (1) beautician (2) mortician [✓ (3) coroner] (4) surgeon
10. The _____ old man is well-respected for his wisdom throughout the region.
    (1) sagacious (2) sanguine (3) sacred (4) sentimental
11. Sarah's _____ lifestyle contributed to her obesity. She needs to change her living habits so that her weight can be reduced.
    (1) sedentary (2) sedimentary (3) seclusive (4) seductive
12. A communist society is meant to be a very _____ society where everyone should be treated as equals.
    (1) agrarian [✓ (2) egalitarian] (3) autocratic (4) autonomous

VOCAB quick CHECK

captious - adj. tending to find fault or raise petty objections.
capricious - adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour.
cherubic - adj. angelic.
collation - n. a light informal meal.
contentious - adj. likely to cause disagreement or controversy.
coroner - n. an official who holds inquests into violent, sudden, or suspicious deaths.
corpulent - adj. fat.
cosmopolitan - adj. representative of many different countries and cultures.
egalitarian - adj. believing in the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal rights.
malevolence - n. wishing evil to others.
mortician - n. an undertaker.
munificence - n. generosity.
opulent - adj. ostentatiously rich and luxurious.
pacifist - n. person who believes that disputes should be settled by peaceful means.
parable - n. a simple story used to illustrate a moral lesson.
paradigm - n. a typical example, pattern, or model of something.
paragon - n. a person or thing regarded as a model of excellence.
paramour - n. a lover.
sagacious - adj. showing good judgement.
sanguine - adj. cheerfully optimistic.
sedentary - adj. tending to spend much time seated.
sedimentary - adj. relating to sediment; rock.
scythe - n. a tool used for cutting crops.
sickle - n. a short-handled farming tool.
succulent - adj. (of food) tender, juicy, and tasty.
urbane - adj. suave, courteous, and refined.
voluptuous - adj. curvaceous and sexually attractive.

Challenge 30

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Your secretary is most _____ and efficient in handling matters.
[✓ (1) expeditious] (2) economical (3) experienced (4) extinguished

2. The archaeologist discovered that the Emperor had actually died of arsenic poisoning after his body was _____ from his grave.
(1) disclosed [✓ (2) exhumed] (3) revealed (4) investigated

3. Please be more mature and do not _____ about on the streets anymore; you are already the mother of a one-year-old child!
(1) gallop (2) gallant [✓ (3) gallivant] (4) gallon

4. The condemned prisoner was hung at the _____ for the countless sins he had committed.
(1) girdle (2) gimmick (3) gantry [✓ (4) gallows]

5. The _____ of geese waddled along the bank of the river before taking off to the skies.
(1) herd (2) gander [✓ (3) gaggle] (4) pack

6. We all have our _____ that may be to our disadvantage, but these minor faults are actually quite harmless to other people.
[✓ (1) foibles] (2) quirks (3) idiosyncrasies (4) trivia

7. The _____ man always gives half of his monthly salary to charities to help those more needy than himself.
[✓ (1) altruistic] (2) autistic (3) alternate (4) alternative

8. The _____ from the bush fires caused a haze over Australia for weeks.
(1) configuration (2) condition (3) conflation [✓ (4) conflagration]

9. Baking brownies is my _____ - you can never taste brownies as good as mine!
[✓ (1) forte] (2) flair (3) fortress (4) fault

10. The _____ is this - that while we do not want to infringe on anyone's privacy, we have no choice but to set up security cameras everywhere to prevent theft.
(1) oxymoron [✓ (2) paradox] (3) puzzle (4) facade

11. The director was pleased with the actress' _____ performance at the audition. Therefore, he decided to choose her as the lead character in the play.
(1) spendthrift [✓ (2) splendid] (3) splendour (4) splendent

12. There was complete _____ at the zoo when the monkeys escaped from their cages and attacked the tourists.
[✓ (1) pandemonium] (2) pant (3) panic (4) pantomime

VOCAB quick CHECK

altruistic - adj. selfless concern for the well-being of others.

autistic - adj. having difficulty communicating with others.

configuration - n. an arrangement of parts or elements in a particular form or figure.

conflagration - n. an extensive and destructive fire.

conflation - n. combination into one.

exhume - v. dig out (something buried, especially a corpse) from the ground.

expeditious - adj. quick and efficient.

facade - n. a deceptive outward appearance.

foible - n. a minor weakness or eccentricity.

gaggle - n. a flock of geese.

gallant - adj. brave; heroic.

gallivant - v. go from place to place in pursuit of pleasure.

gander - n. a male goose.

gimmick - n. a trick or device intended to attract attention or publicity rather than fulfil a useful purpose.

girdle - n. a belt or cord worn round the waist.

idiosyncrasy - n. a mode of behaviour or way of thought specific to an individual.

oxymoron - n. a figure of speech or expressed idea in which contradictory terms appear in conjunction.

pandemonium - n. wild and noisy disorder or confusion.

pantomime - n. a theatrical entertainment involving music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy.

paradox - n. a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that may in fact be true.

quirk - n. a peculiar behavioural habit.

splendour - n. splendid appearance.

trivia - n. unimportant details or pieces of information.

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edible edible : comestible

Challenge 31

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. My _____ is the only person I have absolute trust in; I confide in him all my inner feelings.
[✓ (1) spouse] (2) grouse (3) louse (4) douse

2. The President's _____ was carried out at the Istana and all the high ranking officials were there to witness this important ceremony.
[✓ (1) inauguration] (2) ritual (3) rite (4) commencement

3. Blood from minor cuts tends to stop flowing after a while and _____.
(1) collage (2) conceal (3) coincide [✓ (4) coagulate]

4. Few people are aware that edible things are also known as _____.
[✓ (1) comestibles] (2) condiments (3) confections (4) confetti

5. A person's academic achievements do not _____ with his capability in the corporate world.
[✓ (1) commensurate] (2) comparable (3) consequential (4) coincidental

6. A bomb is an _____ device as the blast often starts an inferno as well.
(1) influential (2) instigating [✓ (3) incendiary] (4) innovative

7. Her _____ displayed all her grief at the funeral and no amount of consolation could comfort her.
[✓ (1) countenance] (2) confirmation (3) exposition (4) convocation

8. The _____ of the matter lies in whether he will plead guilty to manslaughter or murder in the first degree.
[✓ (1) crux] (2) critic (3) crisis (4) crutch

9. A/An _____ lists all the works by a selected author and you can refer to that if you want to read more of his works.
(1) annex (2) autobiography (3) biography [✓ (4) bibliography]

10. The court session has been _____ to a later date as the important witnesses to the case are not present.
[✓ (1) adjourned] (2) amended (3) extended (4) assigned

11. Servants usually address their masters by an _____ term such as "Sir".
[✓ (1) honorary] (2) honest (3) holistic (4) honourable

12. He is the _____ of the National Museum and you can refer to him for your queries.
(1) spectator (2) orator (3) dictator [✓ (4) curator]

VOCAB quick CHECK

adjourn - v. break off (a meeting) with the intention of resuming it later.

autobiography - n. an account of a person's life written by that person.

bibliography - n. a list of sources referred to in a work.

coagulate - v. change to a solid or semi-solid state.

collage - n. a combination or collection of various things.

comestible - n. an item of food.

commensurate - v. corresponding in size or degree; in proportion.

condiment - n. a substance such as salt, mustard, or pickle that is used to flavour food.

confetti - n. small pieces of coloured paper traditionally thrown over a bride and groom after a marriage ceremony.

convocation - n. a legislative or deliberative assembly of a university.

countenance - n. a person's face or facial expression.

crux - n. the decisive or most important point at issue.

curator - n. a keeper or custodian of a museum.

dictator - n. a ruler with total power over a country.

douse - v. drench with liquid.

exposition - n. a large public exhibition of art or trade goods.

grouse - n. a grumble or petty complaint.

holistic - adj. belief that the parts of something are explicable only by reference to the whole.

honorary - adj. of a title conferred as an honour.

inauguration - n. mark the opening of (an institution) with a special event.

incendiary - adj. of a device designed to cause fires.

inferno - n. a large fire that is dangerously out of control.

orator - n. a proficient public speaker.

rite - n. a religious or solemn ceremony or act.

spouse - n. a husband or wife..

Challenge 32

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. There is no fear that there'll be a lack of space as the manor has a lot of large rooms and is extremely______.
   (1) conducive [✓ (2) capacious] (3) contagious (4) accomodating
2. She conned the old lady of her savings without any _____ or regret for her own actions.
   (1) reservation [✓ (2) scruple] (3) embarrassment (4) hesitation
3. A ______ is a young swan.
   [✓ (1) cygnet] (2) colt (3) coyote (4) calf
4. People who display _____ behaviour and prefer to act in their own ways are not conformists.
   (1) absurd (2) abnormal (3) adhesive [✓ (4) aberrant]
5. Women are generally thought to act by their _____ more often than men.
   [✓ (1) intuition] (2) initiative (3) inclination (4) incentive
6. It was an unfortunate _____ of various events which led to the present misunderstanding.
   (1) continuation [✓ (2) concatenation] (3) circulation (4) conspiracy
7. A ______ of Euclid's head and shoulders is placed at the entrance of the Mathematics faculty of the university.
   [✓ (1) bust] (2) statue (3) memorial (4) cenotaph
8. Shaun was _____ for having mixed up all the goods which caused the company to make a heavy loss.
   (1) condemned [✓ (2) rebuked] (3) resigned (4) relieved
9. This way of thinking has become outmoded and _____; it is time to think of something new.
   (1) oppressed (2) obscene [✓ (3) obsolete] (4) oblivious
10. Spies are often involved in _____; their job is to collect secret information for their governments.
    (1) treason [✓ (2) espionage] (3) revolution (4) rebellion
11. The ______ and immature youth still has a lot to learn from life.
    [✓ (1) callow] (2) fallow (3) wallow (4) sallow
12. You had better be careful of Cindy for she must have an _____ motive for getting close to you.
    [✓ (1) ulterior] (2) interior (3) exterior (4) anterior

VOCAB quick CHECK

aberrant - adj. departing from an accepted standard.

accomodating - adj. fitting in helpfully with another's wishes or demands.

adhesive - adj. able to stick to a surface or object.

anterior - adj. nearer the front of the body or head.

bust - n. a sculpture of a person's head, shoulders, and chest.

callow - adj. (of a young person) inexperienced and immature.

capacious - adj. having a lot of space inside; roomy.

cenotaph - n. a monument to someone buried elsewhere, especially a war memorial.

colt - n. a young uncastrated male horse.

concatenation - n. linking together in a chain or series.

conducive - adj. contributing or helping towards (a particular outcome).

coyote - n. a wolf-like wild dog.

cygnet - n. a young swan.

espionage - n. the practice of spying or of using spies.

fallow - adj. (of farmland) ploughed and harrowed but left without being sown.

incentive - n. a thing that motivates or encourages someone to do something.

inclination - n. a natural tendency or urge to act or feel in a particular way.

oblivious - adj. not aware of what is happening around one.

outmoded - adj. old-fashioned.

rebuke - v. reprimand sharply.

reservation - n. an expression of doubt attached to a statement or claim.

sallow - adj. (of a person's face or complexion) of a yellowish or pale brown colour.

scruple - n. a feeling of doubt with regard to the morality of an action.

treason - n. the crime of betraying one's country.

wallow - v. indulge without restraint in (something pleasurable).

Challenge 33

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Many poor people of India live in _____ below the poverty line.
   [✓ (1) squalor] (2) slumber (3) squander (4) stable
2. Kelvin missed his target and the bullet _____ off the metal pane before being lodged in the wall.
   (1) reciprocated (2) reverberated [✓ (3) rebounded] (4) reflected
3. The drunken man was unable to walk in a straight line and _____ down the road, almost falling on several occasions.
   (1) strutted [✓ (2) staggered] (3) swaggered (4) shuffled
4. That man is considered a _____ as he had deserted the army just when his country was attacked by enemies.
   (1) refugee (2) rebel [✓ (3) renegade] (4) reborn
5. The manager had transferred a huge sum of funds to his account before ______.
   [✓ (1) absconding] (2) absolving (3) abstaining (4) accelerating
6. ______ of sweat trickled down his forehead as he fried the ingredients in the flaming pan.
   (1) Rivers (2) Tributaries [✓ (3) Rivulets] (4) Meanders
7. The lifeguard _____ the unconscious woman by pumping her chest and blowing air into her lungs.
   [✓ (1) resuscitated] (2) rescued (3) revived (4) resurrected
8. A _____ is a male goose.
   [✓ (1) gander] (2) stallion (3) hare (4) rooster
9. We have recently published the _____ of Princess Diana and it became the best-selling book within weeks.
   (1) memorandum (2) memento (3) memorial [✓ (4) memoir]
10. The beggar is _____ as he cannot read or write. So, he needs someone to explain to him what was written on the wall.
    [✓ (1) illiterate] (2) literate (3) illegitimate (4) illegible
11. There will not be any changes at the senior management level; everything will be maintained at ______.
    [✓ (1) status quo] (2) stature (3) status (4) state
12. The _____ performed by the coroner on the body revealed that the victim had died by strangulation.
    (1) acupuncture (2) operation [✓ (3) autopsy] (4) surgery

VOCAB quick CHECK

abscond - v. leave hurriedly and secretly to escape from custody or avoid arrest.

absolve - v. leave hurriedly and secretly to escape from custody or avoid arrest.

abstain - v. restrain oneself from doing something.

coroner - n. an official who holds inquests into violent, sudden, or suspicious deaths.

gander - n. a male goose.

meander - n. a winding curve or bend of a river or road.

memento - n. an object kept as a reminder or souvenir.

memoir - n. a historical account or biography written from personal knowledge.

memorandum - n. a written message in business or diplomacy.

rebound - v. bounce back after hitting a hard surface.

reciprocrate - v. respond to (a gesture or action) with a corresponding one.

renegade - n. a person who deserts and betrays an organization, country, or set of principles.

resurrect - v. revive the practice, use, or memory of.

reverberate - v. (of a loud noise) be repeated as an echo.

rivulet - n. a very small stream.

slumber - n. a sleep.

squalor - n. the state of being extremely dirty and unpleasant.

stature - n. importance or reputation gained by ability or achievement.

status quo - n. the existing state of affairs.

strangulation - n. the act of preventing blood circulation through the throat by constriction.

strut - v. walk with a stiff, erect, and conceited gait.

swagger - v. walk or behave arrogantly or self-importantly.

tributary - n. a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

Challenge 34

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Martin was extremely _____ after her mother's solemn talk to him on honesty and integrity; he knew he had done wrong in the past.
   (1) aboard [✓ (2) abashed] (3) abstained (4) embarassed
2. _____, whereby a person marries another while still legally married to another person, is considered a crime in many countries.
   [✓ (1) Polygamy] (2) Bigamy (3) Monogamy (4) Infamy
3. Many drug abusers use _____ methods to admit drugs into their bodies; this can lead to a spread of the AIDS virus if infected needles are used.
   (1) extraneous (2) tenacious [✓ (3) intravenous] (4) instantaneous
4. _____ companies usually have to spend years testing their new drugs and medicines before they are allowed to sell it to the public.
   (1) Clinical (2) Medical [✓ (3) Pharmaceutical] (4) Medicinal
5. We are going to organise a horse riding _____ where people can learn about the skills involved in horse riding.
   [✓ (1) clinic] (2) excursion (3) tutorial (4) exercise
6. Please use the _____ to scoop a bowl of soup from the pot and do not use a spoon as it may spill over.
   (1) ladder (2) larder [✓ (3) ladle] (4) laden
7. The _____ of fish is so large that it can be seen from the surface of the ocean.
   [✓ (1) school] (2) herd (3) flock (4) swarm
8. The _____ suitor refused to give up wooing his beloved and sought more ingenious ways to win her over.
   [✓ (1) tenacious] (2) tremulous (3) tentative (4) tender
9. "You should eat more as you are looking very _____," my mother said to me.
   [✓ (1) gaunt] (2) haggard (3) lanky (4) dreary
10. Do not mess with the _____ as you never know what evil spirits you may encounter.
    [✓ (1) occult] (2) orbit (3) omen (4) oath
11. The _____ will be present when the baby is due for delivery.
    (1) gynaecologist [✓ (2) obstetrician] (3) pathologist (4) anesthetist
12. The director had to answer calmly and concisely the _____ of questions thrown at him by the journalists.
    [✓ (1) barrage] (2) barricade (3) barn (4) barnstorm

VOCAB quick CHECK

abash - v. cause to feel embarrassed or ashamed.
abstain - v. restrain oneself from doing something.
anesthetist - n. a person who administers drugs to relieve pain before an operation.
barnstorm - v. make a rapid tour as part of a political campaign.
barrage - n. an overwhelming number of questions delivered in rapid succession.
barricade - n. an improvised barrier erected to obstruct the movement of opposing forces.
bigamy - n. the offence of marrying someone while already married to another person.
clinic - n. a conference or short course on a particular subject.
dreary - adj. dull, bleak, and depressing.
extraneous - adj. irrelevant.
gaunt - adj. lean and haggard, especially through illness, hunger, or age.
gynaecology - n. branch of medicine concerned with the functions and diseases specific to women and girls.
infamy - n. the quality of being morally bad.
intravenous - adj. within or into a vein or veins.
laden - adj. heavily loaded.
lanky - adj. ungracefully tall and thin.
larder - n. a room or large cupboard for storing food.
monogamy - n. the practice of having a sexual relationship with only one person at a time.
obsterician - n. a surgeon who is involved with childbirth.
occult - n. supernatural powers, practices, or phenomena.
pathology - n. branch of medicine concerned with the causes and effects of diseases.
polygamy - n. the custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time.
tenacious - adj. persisting in existence.
tentative - adj. not certain.
tremulous - adj. timid.

Challenge 35

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The _____ who had installed a secret camera in the female toilet has finally been caught.
   (1) spy [✓ (2) voyeur] (3) maniac (4) lecher
2. The sunset left a glaze of _____ against the backdrop of the blue sky.
   [✓ (1) vermilion] (2) azure (3) indigo (4) lilac
3. In the cartoon, the monster melted into a _____ lump of gook and started sprawling with difficulty across the floor.
   (1) viscose (2) vinous (3) vicious [✓ (4) viscous]
4. The singer is always surrounded by a _____ of models in his music videos.
   (1) school [✓ (2) bevy] (3) flock (4) herd
5. My mother _____ at the price of the new handphone that I wanted to buy as it was too costly.
   (1) blinked [✓ (2) baulked] (3) bawled (4) blanched
6. The doctor applied a _____ to the patient's arm to stop the poison from flowing further into his veins.
   (1) cast (2) sling (3) bandage [✓ (4) tourniquet]
7. Modern day policemen use _____ to restrict the movement of criminals.
   (1) barracks (2) barnacles [✓ (3) manacles] (4) handles
8. Most victims who perished at land mines were hit by pieces of flying _____ entering their bodies.
   (1) chips (2) bullets [✓ (3) shrapnel] (4) fragments
9. The _____ motive of our investigation is to find out the murderer; the whereabouts of the missing money can wait.
   [✓ (1) primary] (2) secondary (3) central (4) tertiary
10. Belinda knew about Jackie's admiration for her, as she was always _____ at her.
    (1) leering (2) scowling [✓ (3) ogling] (4) glaring
11. Gloria was overwhelmed by the _____ of her cousin's new mansion when she first stepped into the place.
    [✓ (1) opulence] (2) opacity (3) optimum (4) oppressiveness
12. Kyle had a sudden _____ for coffee, so he went out to get some to perk himself up.
    [✓ (1) hankering] (2) thirst (3) craving (4) appetite

VOCAB quick CHECK

azure - n. a bright blue colour.
barnacle - n. a marine crustacean with an external shell.
barracks - n. a large building or group of buildings used to house soldiers.
baulk - v. hesitate to accept (an idea or undertaking).
bawl - v. reprimand someone angrily.
bevy - n. a large group of people or things.
blanch - v. make or become white or pale.
gook - n. a sloppy wet or viscous substance.
hankering - n. a desire for or to do something.
indigo - n. a colour between blue and violet in the spectrum.
leer - v. look or gaze in a lascivious or unpleasant way.
lilac - n. a pale pinkish-violet colour.
manacle - n. a metal band, chain, or shackle for fastening someone's hands or ankles.
opacity - n. the condition of being opaque.
ogle - v. stare at lecherously.
optimum - n. the optimum conditions for growth, reproduction, or success.
opulence - n. wealth.
shrapnel - n. small metal fragments thrown out by the explosion of a shell, bomb, etc.
tertiary - adj. third in order or level.
tourniquet - n. a device for stopping the flow of blood through an artery, typically by compressing a limb with a cord or tight bandage.
vermillion - n. a brilliant red colour.
vinous - adj. of, resembling, or associated with wine.
viscose - n. a viscous orange-brown solution.
viscous - adj. having a thick, sticky consistency between solid and liquid.
voyeur - n. a person who gains sexual pleasure from watching others when they are naked or engaged in sexual activity.

Nosegay

Nose of wall

Challenge 36

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. This museum contains some of the rarest and oldest _____ of our time and these treasures will be kept for many years to come.
   (1) treasures (2) artefacts (3) archives (4) arches
2. He was so hungry that he _____ down his food like a wolf and choked himself in the process.
   (1) overate (2) gorged (3) devoured (4) stuffed
3. Sarah hates sitting for examinations; it's always a _____ experience for her.
   (1) hair-raising (2) gut-wrenching (3) foot-tapping (4) nerve-wrecking
4. "Derek, turn off that _____ music! Do you want the neighbours to complain?" Mrs Lim shouted at his son.
   (1) blaring (2) glaring (3) screeching (4) shrieking
5. Whenever I look through my old school photos, I will feel a pang of _____.
   (1) regret (2) sadness (3) sorrow (4) nostalgia
6. The journalist was fired because he _____ sources and quotes for his stories.
   (1) devised (2) feigned (3) forged (4) fabricated
7. _____ of company funds is a serious crime! Don't do it unless you want to be sued!
   (1) Pilfering (2) Embezzlement (3) Cheating (4) Stealing
8. Mr Tay is looking for potential _____ to provide the capital for his new business.
   (1) investors (2) suppliers (3) creditors (4) debtors
9. That's a Turkish lucky charm called "The Evil Eye"; some people _____ that it can ward off bad luck.
   (1) guarantee (2) claim (3) assume (4) confirm
10. You shouldn't incur her _____; women can be quite vicious when they become angry.
    (1) dislike (2) wrath (3) irritation (4) displeasure
11. Sorry, I'm a _____. Can I have something non-alcoholic like soda?
    (1) alcoholic (2) totalitarian (3) teetotaller (4) vegetarian
12. Stacy hates outdoor activities because she doesn't want her hair to become _____ from all the dirt and perspiration.
    (1) limp (2) lackadaisical (3) uninspired (4) lacklustre

archive - n. a collection of historical documents or records.
artefact - n. an object made by a human being.
devise - v. plan or invent (a complex procedure or mechanism).
devour - v. consume destructively.
embezzle - v. steal or misappropriate (money placed in one's trust or under one's control).
fabricate - v. invent in order to deceive.
feign - v. invent in order to deceive.
gorge - v. eat a large amount greedily.
gut-wrenching - adj. extremely unpleasant or upsetting.
lackadaisical - adj. lacking enthusiasm and thoroughness.
lacklustre - adj. not shining; dull.
nerve-wrecking - adj. causing stress or anxiety.
nostalgia - n. causing stress or anxiety.
pilfer - v. steal (things of little value).
teetotaller - n. a person who abstains from alcohol.
totalitarian - n. a person advocating a dictatorial system of government requiring complete subservience to the state.
wrath - n. extreme anger.

Infanticide catatrophic Aesthetic

In face a lion in heart a deer

consecutivey
Pastor

Challenge 37

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Joe feels insecure and neglected whenever people are _____ towards him.
   (1) indifferent (2) attentive (3) sensitive (4) callous
   سنگدل - بے رحم
2. _____, Roy is asking Anne out again. He had complained that he was bored to tears on their previous date.
   (1) Surprisingly (2) Ridiculously (3) Astoundingly (4) Extraordinarily
3. The pathologist has a _____ sense of humour; he often jokes about the dead bodies he is examining.
   (1) quirky (2) cynical (3) morbid (4) strange
4. The hospital staff was _____ in their precautionary measures to prevent similar outbreaks from occurring again.
   (1) stringent (2) inflexible (3) severe (4) stern
5. The concert hall opened with _____ and fireworks at the gala launch; several media personnel covered the event.
   (1) frills (2) fanfare (3) fantasy (4) frenzy
6. Your affection for him has gone beyond mere _____; you've begun stalking him!
   (1) intimacy (2) imitation (3) infatuation (4) infamy
7. It's unhealthy for young people to be _____ with pop stars, especially if they start to track down the stars' every move.
   (1) overwhelmed (2) preoccupied (3) immersed (4) obsessed
8. Nick is an intelligent boy but he will be brought down by his own _____ one day if he continues to idle his time away.
   (1) indolence (2) incompetence (3) stupidity (4) diligence
9. The people of the entire country were in a state of mourning and _____ when news of the President's assassination was announced.
   (1) sorrow (2) shock (3) shudder (4) sentiment
10. _____, my grandpa let the stranger into the house, unaware that he was a crook.
    (1) Knowingly (2) Consciously (3) Unwittingly (4) Subconsciously
11. Besides functionality, I'm looking out for furniture that is also _____ pleasing to the eye.
    (1) aesthetically (2) obviously (3) apparently (4) outwardly
12. The collapse of the new building was indeed a/an _____ accident.
    (1) culminant (2) catastrophic (3) unfortunate (4) dangerous

aesthetic - adj. concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.
astounding - adj. shocking.
callous - adj. insensitive and cruel.
catastrophic - adj. involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.
culminant - adj. at or forming the top or highest point.
cynical - adj. believing that people are motivated purely by self-interest.
fanfare - n. great media attention surrounding the introduction of something.
frenzy - n. a state or period of uncontrolled excitement or wild behaviour.
frills - n. unnecessary extra features or embellishments.
indifferent - adj. having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned.
indolence - n. laziness.
infamy - n. the quality of being infamous.
morbid - adj. characterized by or appealing to an abnormal and unhealthy interest in unpleasant subjects, especially death and disease.
outbreak - n. a sudden occurrence of war, disease, etc.
preoccupied - adj. engrossed.
quirky - adj. characterized by peculiar or unexpected traits or aspects.
sentiment - n. a view, opinion, or feeling.
shudder - n. tremble especially from fear or repugnance.
stringent - adj. (of regulations or requirements) strict, precise, and exacting.
unwitting - adj. not intentional.

Challenge 38

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The differences between the two dresses are so _____ that I thought they are of the same design.
(1) negligible (2) nugatory (3) trivial (4) incredible

2. Due to _____, the concert has been cancelled. Those who bought tickets earlier on will be refunded the full amount.
(1) unlucky instances (2) helpless circumstances
(3) happy coincidences (4) unforeseen circumstances

3. Maggie could not stand Jack's _____ chatter anymore, so she just got up and left.
(1) persistent (2) evergreen (3) incessant (4) everlasting

4. Tanya's teacher is shocked by her _____ when she turned up with a visibly shortened hemline on her uniform.
(1) negligence (2) nonchalance (3) disobedience (4) insolence

5. I apologise for the _____ state that my flat is in. I've tried in vain to set aside some time to clear up the mess.
(1) chaotic (2) ingenious (3) creative (4) nifty

6. Chris nearly couldn't survive the ordeal of being locked up in the boot of a car for over twenty four hours because he's _____.
(1) hydrophobic (2) claustrophobic (3) phobic (4) xenophobic

7. His slurred speech was totally _____ to me; I couldn't understand a word.
(1) credible (2) suitable (3) unintelligible (4) legible

8. The magician was standing so _____ at the edge of the sky-high platform that the crowd feared for his safety.
(1) precariously (2) carefully (3) convincingly (4) vulnerably

9. In my father's will, he _____ all his money to my brother and left none to me.
(1) transferred (2) transmitted (3) imparted (4) bequeathed

10. The newcomer _____ the defending champion to win the tournament.
(1) overcame (2) conquered (3) suppressed (4) defeated

11. Jennifer ignored obnoxious Kenny as he made another _____ remark about her dress during the gathering.
(1) external (2) extraneous (3) relevant (4) peripheral

12. After the lecture, Jamie still could not figure out the new theory as her lecturer's explanation seemed more _____ than clear.
(1) obscure (2) undistinguished (3) palpable (4) tangible

VOCAB quick CHECK

bequeath - v. leave (property) to a person or other beneficiary by a will.
chaotic - adj. in a state of complete confusion and disorder.
claustrophobia - n. extreme or irrational fear of confined places.
conquer - v. overcome and take control of by military force.
extraneous - adj. irrelevant or unrelated to the subject.
hydrophobic - n. extreme or irrational fear of water, especially as a symptom of rabies.
incessant - adj. (especially of something unpleasant) continuing without pause or interruption.
ingenious - adj. clever, original, and inventive.
insolence - n. disrespect.
negligence - n. failure to take proper care over something.
negligible - adj. insignificant.
nifty - adj. particularly good or effective.
nonchalance - n. calmness.
nugatory - adj. of no value or importance.
obscure - adj. not clearly expressed or easily understood.
ordeal - n. a prolonged painful or horrific experience.
palpable - adj. plain to see or comprehend.
peripheral - adj. marginal.
phobic - adj. having an extreme or irrational fear of something.
precarious - adj. not securely held or in position; likely to fall.
tangible - adj. perceptible by touch.
trivial - adj. of little value or importance.
vulnerable - adj. exposed to the risk of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.
xenophobia - n. intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries.

Xenophobia

Challenge 39

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The class _____ Fiona to be the new head prefect. We hope she will win in the polls next week.
(1) nominated (2) suggested (3) commissioned (4) crowned

2. Martina Navratilova is one of the most _____ and respected tennis players in the world.
(1) prominent (2) eminent (3) conspicuous (4) proficient

3. Mr Low is a sullen and _____ man, so don't take it to heart if he doesn't talk to you at all.
(1) curt (2) forthcoming (3) forthright (4) unassuming

4. Dad likes to _____ about work especially after a bad day in the office, forcing us to listen to his stories at dinnertime.
(1) distress (2) discuss (3) gripe (4) converse

5. After he encountered a string of mishaps, Calvin's superstitious mother gave him an _____ to wear around his neck.
(1) emblem (2) insignia (3) ornament (4) amulet

This worn as a charm تعویز

6. My grandma has _____, so when the weather turns wet, she often feels pain in her joints.
(1) migraine (2) diabetes (3) osteoporosis (4) arthritis

7. Being my _____, Charlene never fails to make life difficult for me and will find ways to make me feel miserable.
(1) nemesis (2) enemy (3) opponent (4) antagonist

8. Chris forgot to ask her landlady to water her plants when she was away for two months, so they all sadly _____ .
(1) wilted (2) ebbed (3) waned (4) drooped

9. Mr Ong was _____ when he heard that his daughter had been kidnapped.
(1) overwrought (2) desperate (3) maddened (4) provoked

10. The _____ cast of the "Saturday Night Live show" always has me in stitches for hours.
(1) manic (2) frantic (3) zany (4) melancholic

مسخرہ - نقال

11. The _____ has headed the expedition to search for ruins in Egypt and will only be back half a year later.
(1) pathologist (2) archaeologist (3) explorer (4) adventurer

آثار قدیمہ کے ماہر

12. "You've been cheated! These dollar notes are _____!" Gayle exclaimed Joe.
(1) deceptive (2) invalid (3) bogus (4) authentic

غیر معیاری - ناقابل قبول

VOCAB quick CHECK

تعویز

amulet - n. an ornament or small piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil or danger.
antagonist - n. a person who actively opposes or is hostile towards someone or something.
archaeology - n. the study of human history through the excavation of sites.
arthritis - n. a disease causing inflammation and stiffness of the joints.
authentic - adj. of undisputed origin or veracity; genuine.
bogus - adj. not genuine.
conspicuous - adj. attracting notice or attention.
commission - v. order or authorize the production of.
curt - adj. rudely brief.
ebb - v. gradually decrease.
emblem - n. a symbol or symbolic representation.
eminent - adj. respected and distinguished within a particular sphere.
forthright - adj. direct and outspoken.
gripe - v. complain about something trivial.
insignia - n. a distinguishing badge or emblem of military rank, office, or membership.
melancholic - adj. depressed.
nemesis - n. the inescapable agent of someone's downfall, especially when deserved.
osteoporosis - n. a medical condition in which the bones become brittle.
overwrought - adj. in a state of nervous excitement or anxiety.
pathology - n. the branch of medicine concerned with the causes and effects of diseases.
proficient - adj. competent or skilled in doing or using something.
sullen - adj. bad-tempered and sulky.
unassuming - adj. not pretentious or arrogant.
wane - v. become weaker.
zany - adj. amusingly unconventional and idiosyncratic.

commendable

Challenge 40

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Lynn was _____ when her pet parrot died unexpectedly; she cried for days and even lost her appetite.
   (1) *irreconcilable* [✓ (2) *inconsolable*] (3) *intolerable* (4) *incomparable*
2. The captain _____ the platoon for a job well-done in their peacekeeping efforts.
   (1) *commented* [✓ (2) *commended*] (3) *contended* (4) *commanded*
3. The captured Prince refused to _____ herself when he was told that he had to kneel before the enemy King.
   (1) *admit* (2) *embarrass* (3) *alter* [✓ (4) *abase*]
4. "The school does not _____ such unruly behaviour," the principal warned the two boys.
   (1) *commit* (2) *indulge* (3) *endure* [✓ (4) *condone*]
   forgive
5. Hady leads a _____ life, so it's difficult to say which part of the world he is in right now.
   [✓ (1) *nomadic*] (2) *elusive* (3) *hermit* (4) *solitary*
6. Little Paul has the _____ habit of digging his nose in public. This causes much annoyance to the people around him.
   (1) *insignificant* (2) *awful* [✓ (3) *odious*] (4) *specific*
7. Faced with a _____ of choices, Judy can't make up her mind which course to choose for her graduate studies.
   (1) *mass* (2) *multitude* (3) *mode* [✓ (4) *myriad*]
8. I was so touched by her _____ and pure innocence that I swore to protect her and keep her untainted from the evils in this world.
   (1) *worldliness* [✓ (2) *naiveté*] (3) *gullibility* (4) *thoughtfulness*
9. Melissa is wailing because Norman just _____ her ponytail, causing her much pain.
   [✓ (1) *yanked*] (2) *snipped* (3) *wagged* (4) *hauled*

0. The doctor recommended total _____ from sweet foods for my diabetic father.
   (1) *avoidance* [✓ (2) *abstinence*] (3) *evasion* (4) *omission*

1. You can always _____ in me if you've any problems as I am your best friend.
   (1) *divulge* (2) *disclose* [✓ (3) *confide*] (4) *impart*

2. The witch told a _____ tale of dead people and ugly monsters to frighten the young children.
   (1) *gripping* (2) *menacing* [✓ (3) *macabre*] (4) *thrilling*

VOCAB quick CHECK

abase - v. behave in a way that belittles or degrades (someone).
abstinence - n. the practice of abstaining, especially from drinking alcohol.
condone - v. accept or forgive (behaviour considered wrong or offensive).
divulge - v. make known (secret information).
elusive - adj. difficult to find, catch, or achieve.
evasion - n. avoid commitment or self-revelation.
haul - v. pull or drag with effort or force.
hermit - n. a person living in solitude as a religious discipline.
indulge - v. allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of.
irreconcilable - adj. (of ideas, statements, etc.) incompatible.
macabre - adj. disturbing and horrifying because concerned with death and injury.
mode - n. a way in which something occurs or is done.
multitude - n. a large number of people or things.
myraid - n. an indefinitely great number.
naivete - n. the lack of experience, wisdom, or judgement.
nomadic - adj. wandering.
odious - adj. extremely unpleasant; repulsive.
solitary - adj. done or existing alone.
unruly - adj. disorderly and disruptive; difficult to control.
untainted - adj. not contaminated, polluted, or tainted.

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opulent

negligence

Challenge 41

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The construction workers _____ off the area so as to keep pedestrians off from the potentially dangerous work site.
   (1) *surrounded* (2) *barred* (3) *bordered* [✓ (4) *cordoned*]
2. Madam Song is in the midst of writing her own _____ as she hopes the story of her life will inspire others.
   [✓ (1) *biography*] (2) *bibliography* (3) *novel* (4) *fiction*
3. I'm amazed by your _____ as you persist even when the going gets tough.
   [✓ (1) *tenacity*] (2) *diligence* (3) *rigidity* (4) *inflexibility*
4. I went to see my _____ today because I needed him to prescribe me a new pair of glasses.
   [✓ (1) *optometrist*] (2) *optician* (3) *doctor* (4) *specialist*
5. Students of _____ study the process of changing baser metals into gold.
   (1) *wizardry* [✓ (2) *alchemy*] (3) *physics* (4) *chemistry*
6. Because of Bobby's _____, the puppy nearly starved to death.
   (1) *diligence* [✓ (2) *negligence*] (3) *attentiveness* (4) *carelessness*
7. The drunk driver failed the _____ test and was arrested by the traffic police on the spot.
   (1) *breathing* [✓ (2) *breathalyser*] (3) *alcoholic* (4) *driving*
8. The girls decided to throw a _____ shower for Gina before she walked down the aisle the following Sunday.
   (1) *wedding* (2) *joyous* [✓ (3) *bridal*] (4) *ceremonial*
9. The unhappy client was _____ in wanting to see the manager and refused to listen to any explanation from the junior staff.
   [✓ (1) *obdurate*] (2) *resolute* (3) *oblivious* (4) *unreasonable*
10. Uncle Chu is paying for this car by _____ instalments, which means he has to fork out a certain sum of money every twelve months for the car.
    [✓ (1) *yearly*] (2) *biennial* (3) *biannual* (4) *monthly*
11. Auntie Rosie met with a minor _____ recently. She is now resting at home after a one-day stay at the hospital.
    (1) *incident* [✓ (2) *mishap*] (3) *tragedy* (4) *misfortune*
12. It was injustice to Stephen as he was sent to jail for a crime he did not _____.
    (1) *engage* (2) *elicit* (3) *involve* [✓ (4) *commit*]

VOCAB quick CHECK

alchemy - n. of chemistry, concerned particularly with attempts to convert base metals into gold.
bibliography - n. a list of sources referred to in a particular work.
biennal - adj. taking place every other year.
biography - n. an account of someone's life written by someone else.
breathalyser - n. a device used by police for measuring the amount of alcohol in a driver's breath.
ceremonial - adj. relating to or used for ceremonies.
cordon - v. prevent access to or from a place by means of a cordon.
elicit - v. evoke or draw out (a response or answer).
inustice - n. lack of justice.
mishap - n. an unlucky accident.
obdurate - adj. stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action.
oblivious - adj. not aware of what is happening around one.
optometrist - n. the occupation of measuring eyesight, prescribing corrective lenses, and detecting eye disease.
resolute - adj. determined; unwavering.
tenacity - n. persistence in keeping a firm hold.

mendacity : دروغ گوئی - کذب

Challenge 42

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. My horoscope said that I would be stranded in a state of _____ today. Is that why I'm feeling so conflicted and confused now?
(1) ambiguity (2) indifference [✓ (3) ambivalence] (4) conviction

2. Aunt Sandra _____ her son for taking her car out for a spin without her permission and made him promise never to do it again.
[✓ (1) chided] (2) badgered (3) bickered (4) nagged
ڈانٹنا - ملامت کرنا - [illegible]

3. Mathilda was so _____ when her boyfriend proposed to her that she cried tears of joy.
(1) hysterical [✓ (2) ecstatic] (3) entranced (4) inspired
وجد میں آیا ہوا - دل ہی دل میں خوش ہونے والا

4. You should not trust a _____ girl like Jacintha; she has been a chronic liar since young.
(1) manipulative (2) malicious (3) merciless [✓ (4) mendacious]
دروغ گو - کذاب - جھوٹا

5. Our _____ holds more than two hundred species of birds to date. It is the ideal learning ground for students who want to know more about wildlife.
(1) zoo (2) park [✓ (3) aviary] (4) arena
بڑا قفس پرندوں کا

6. I'm just a _____ in this course. You should approach the seniors or the lecturers themselves if you need help with the lessons.
(1) probationer (2) convent [✓ (3) novice] (4) disciple
نیا - نو آموز

7. It is imperative that you _____ with the rules and regulations in this facility.
(1) comply (2) discharge [✓ (3) abide] (4) submit
پابندی کرنا

8. The army suffered huge losses during the _____ of an enemy attack and had to retreat quickly.
[✓ (1) onslaught] (2) waylay (3) ambush (4) confrontation
حملہ - شدید حملہ

9. The scientist doubted the validity of the entire experiment due to the _____ nature of the data.
(1) aberrant [✓ (2) dubious] (3) degenerated (4) defunct
مشکوک

10. Being a superstar, Elton John is used to being _____ by his over-excited fans.
(1) mourned (2) mocked (3) beleaguered [✓ (4) besieged]
گھیراؤ

11. This noisy cafe is hardly _____ for any serious studying. Why don't you try the library instead?
(1) convincing (2) conductive (3) commencing [✓ (4) conducive]

12. George's boyish charm and wit _____ a shallow and superficial personality.
(1) display (2) falsify [✓ (3) belie] (4) understate

VOCAB quick CHECK

aberrant - adj. departing from an accepted standard.
ambivalence - n. mixed feelings or opinions about something or someone.
ambush - n. a surprise attack by people lying in wait in a concealed position.
arena - n. a level area surrounded by seating, in which public events and entertainments are held.
aviary - n. a large enclosure for keeping birds in.
badger - v. repeatedly and annoyingly ask (someone) to do something.
beleaguer - v. put in a very difficult situation.
belie - v. fail to justify a claim or expectation.
beseige - v. surround (a place) with armed forces in order to capture it or force its surrender.
bicker - v. argue about petty and trivial matters.
chide - v. scold or rebuke.
chronic - adj. persisting for a long time or constantly recurring.
conducive - adj. contributing or helping towards an outcome.
conviction - n. a firmly held belief or opinion.
defunct - adj. no longer existing or functioning.
entranced - adj. filled with wonder and delight.
imperative - adj. of vital importance.
indifference - n. having no particular interest or sympathy.
malicious - adj. intending or intended to do harm.
mendacious - adj. untruthful.
novice - n. a person who is new to and inexperienced in a job or situation.
onslaught - n. a fierce or destructive attack.
probationer - n. a person serving a probationary period in a job or position.
understate - v. describe something as being smaller or less significant than it really is.
waylay - n. intercept and detain with questions, conversation.

Challenge 43

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Nathan is the life of every party. He brings _____ to the guests with his funny anecdotes and witty conversations.
(1) revelry [✓ (2) mirth] (3) uproar (4) optimism
خوش طبعی

2. Blinded by _____, Mr Koh went about amassing his riches in the most ruthless ways.
(1) sloth [✓ (2) avarice] (3) parsimony (4) wealth
دولت کی لالچ - طمع

3. He is a _____ creature, so you'll find him more awake at night than in the day.
[✓ (1) nocturnal] (2) nomadic (3) noble (4) novel
رات کا - شبینہ - رات کو جاگنے والا

4. Try to be _____ while making your decision and don't let former biases influence your choice.
(1) subjective (2) partial [✓ (3) objective] (4) inequitable

5. "_____ is not allowed here!" the sales lady told us sternly when we casually flipped through a magazine from the shelf.
(1) flipping (2) tossing (3) flicking [✓ (4) browsing]

6. Although John is over fifty years of age, his face still looks so _____ and radiant.
(1) tender [✓ (2) supple] (3) youthful (4) willowy
نرم - ملائم

7. Jeff is the _____ for this musical production. If you've any questions about the dance steps or arrangement, you can ask him.
[✓ (1) choreographer] (2) producer (3) director (4) composer

8. Darryl bore the _____ of his mother's complaints after he and his friends did a poor job of trimming the hedges.
(1) weight [✓ (2) brunt] (3) burden (4) attack
[illegible]

9. Adrian's sudden outburst _____ his girlfriend because he is usually so calm and composed. This episode has left her rather stunned.
[✓ (1) perplexed] (2) insulted (3) angered (4) slighted
حیران کرنا - الجھانا

10. My brother was totally _____ to the construction noise outside; he slept soundly throughout the drilling and pounding.
(1) forbearing [✓ (2) oblivious] (3) unconscious (4) tolerant
غافل - بے خبر

11. Cindy was a _____ girl who changed her boyfriends as often as she changed her wardrobe.
(1) erratic [✓ (2) capricious] (3) inconsistent (4) vicious
وہمی - متلون مزاج

12. "Rest assured that all your _____ concerns will be addressed," the financial consultant told the couple reassuringly.
(1) property (2) estate [✓ (3) monetary] (4) insurance

VOCAB quick CHECK

~~**amass** - v. accumulate over time.~~
anecdote - n. a short entertaining story about a real incident or person.
avarice - n. extreme greed for wealth or material gain.
brunt - n. the chief impact of something bad.
capricious - adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour.
choreographer - n. a person who composes the sequence of steps and moves for (a ballet or other dance performance).
forbearing - adj. patient and restrained.
erratic - adj. not even or regular in pattern or movement.
inequitable - adj. unfair; unjust.
mirth - n. amusement, especially as expressed in laughter.
monetary - adj. relating to money or currency.
nocturnal - adj. done, occurring, or active at night.
nomadic - adj. living a wandering life of a nomad.
oblivious - adj. not aware of what is happening around one.
outburst - n. a sudden release of strong emotion or an outbreak of an activity.
parsimony - n. extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources.
perplexed - adj. feel baffled.
revelry - n. lively and noisy festivities.
sloth - n. reluctance to work or make an effort; laziness.
supple - adj. flexible or pliant.
willowy - adj. (of a person) tall, slim, and lithe.

[illegible]

Corpulent موٹا تازہ

Challenge 44

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Shirley is pregnant, so she tends to feel _____ in the mornings and has to rest very often.
(1) grouchy [✓ (2) nauseous] (3) vomit (4) dizzy

2. Mrs Neo took the drugs to _____ the pain and discomfort from the treatment.
(1) rectify (2) eliminate [✓ (3) alleviate] (4) subdue

3. "Your son is _____. You should put him through an exercise regime," the doctor advised the worried Mrs See.
(1) oblivious (2) plump (3) obtuse [✓ (4) obese]
Corpulent

4. After the robber took the money and jewellery from the old lady, he _____ from the lift.
(1) slipped (2) absconded [✓ (3) bolted] (4) strolled

5. Robin took one look at Lilin's _____ face and knew that he had disappointed her deeply by what he had done.
[✓ (1) crestfallen] (2) sorrowful (3) distressed (4) regretful
افسردہ - غمزدہ

6. Thomas is so _____ in the fine art of ice-carving that he has been invited for demonstrations of his skills at hotels.
[✓ (1) adept] (2) knowledgeable (3) adaptable (4) accomplished
ماہر - استاد

7. The new administrative officer got bored with the _____ task of keying data into the computer everyday, and resigned after a week.
(1) plodding [✓ (2) monotonous] (3) wearisome (4) uneventful

8. Her _____ nature is what makes her so special - she's like an angel who thrives on helping others.
(1) beneficent [✓ (2) munificent] (3) beneficial (4) lovable

9. Ericia has grown _____ to the pain and suffering of the patients after having worked for so many years in the hospice.
[✓ (1) insusceptible] (2) adapted (3) callous (4) accustomed

10. Mr Goh is a/an _____; he can always see a silver lining in every dark cloud.
(1) sexist (2) pessimist [✓ (3) optimist] (4) pacifist

11. The villagers _____ the Cameron sisters because they thought they were witches.
(1) segregated [✓ (2) ostracised] (3) separated (4) demoralised

12. Stephanie has an excellent voice; she'll be perfect for the role of the _____ for this play!
(1) curator [✓ (2) narrator] (3) commentator (4) illustrator

VOCAB quick CHECK

abscond - v. leave hurriedly and secretly to escape from custody or avoid arrest.
adept - adj. very skilled or proficient.
alleviate - v. make (pain or difficulty) less severe.
bolt - v. run away suddenly.
callous - adj. insensitive and cruel.
crestfallen - adj. sad and disappointed.
curator - n. a keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection.
hospice - n. a home providing care for the sick or terminally ill.
illustrator - n. a person who makes clear by using example.
insusceptible - adj. not likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing.
monotonous - adj. (of a sound, activity, or process) not interesting because of lack of change or variety.
munificient - adj. very generous.
nauseous - adj. having a feeling of sickness with an inclination to vomit.
oblivious - adj. not aware of what is happening around one.
obtuse - adj. annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand.
ostracise - v. exclude from a society or group.
pacifist - n. the belief that disputes should be settled by peaceful means and that war and violence are unjustifiable.
plodding - adj. walk doggedly and slowly with heavy steps.
rectify - v. put right; correct.
segregate - v. set apart from the rest or from each other.
subdue - v. overcome, quieten, or bring under control.
thrive - v. grow or develop well or vigorously.
uneventful - adj. not marked by interesting or exciting events.

Challenge 45

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The audience was impressed by the way the young contestant was able to _____ her thoughts in a clear and steady manner.
(1) converse (2) verbalize [✓ (3) articulate] (4) illicit

2. All the junior boys are frightened of Big Johnny because he is extremely _____ for being a bully.
[✓ (1) notorious] (2) scandalous (3) well-known (4) renowned

3. Mr Lee is very happy to see the _____ crowd at his restaurant and hopes that this trend will continue forever.
(1) diminishing (2) ebbing (3) fluctuating [✓ (4) burgeoning]

4. The rebels staged a coup and _____ the President from his office, before taking over his powers.
(1) defeated (2) rebelled (3) booted [✓ (4) ousted]

5. Gabriel's mentor _____ him to change his dishonest ways before it was too late.
(1) dislodged (2) notified [✓ (3) admonished] (4) informed

6. The two events happened _____ at different places, so you could not have been at both places at the same time.
(1) consecutively [✓ (2) concurrently] (3) separately (4) distinctively

7. Writing a novel is a _____ task that requires a lot of time, effort and energy.
(1) diminutive [✓ (2) monumental] (3) awe-inspiring (4) commemorative

8. My grandmother survived the long-drawn battle with cancer because she has the _____ and resilience to live.
(1) patience (2) attitude [✓ (3) fortitude] (4) aptitude

9. The movie star displayed _____ indifference when he arrived at the world-famous hotel; it was as if he has lived all his life in such luxurious hotels.
(1) blatant (2) impressionable [✓ (3) blasé] (4) obvious

10. Lola's shyness in meeting Rick for the first time was _____; her cheeks were flushed and she kept twirling her hair.
[✓ (1) manifest] (2) obscure (3) palpable (4) illustrative

11. The hurricane _____ the entire town, leaving hundreds homeless and stripped of their possessions.
[✓ (1) destroyed] (2) destructed (3) distinguished (4) devoured

12. Before the Japanese occupation, Singapore was under the British _____ rule.
(1) independent (2) solitary (3) monarchy [✓ (4) colonial]

VOCAB quick CHECK

admonish - v. reprimand firmly.
aptitude - n. a natural ability or propensity.
articulate - v. clearly express (an idea of feeling).
blase - adj. unimpressed with or indifferent to something because of overfamiliarity.
blatant - adj. open and unashamed; flagrant.
burgeoning - adj. grow or increase rapidly.
colony - n. a country or area under the political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country.
concurrent - adj. existing or happening at the same time.
consecutive - adj. following continuously.
coup - n. a sudden violent seizure of power from a government.
devour - v. consume destructively.
diminutive - adj. extremely or unusually small.
fortitude - n. courage in adversity.
ebbing - adj. gradually decrease.
illicit - adj. forbidden by law.
illustrative - adj. serving as an example or explanation.
indifference - n. having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned.
manifest - v. clear or obvious to the eye or mind.
monach - n. a sovereign head of state; a king or emperor.
notorous - adj. famous for some bad quality or deed.
obscure - adj. not discovered or known about; uncertain.
oust - v. drive out or expel from a position or place.
palpable - adj. able to be touched or felt.
renowned - adj. respected by many people.
resilience - n. ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.
scandalous - adj. outrageous.
solitary - adj. done or existing alone.

تنہا - اکیلا

ominous: منحوس - بدخیال

minousness بدشگونی

Peruse: غور سے جائزہ لینا
غور سے مطالعہ کرنا

Challenge 46

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Do not underestimate the _____ of his influence as he is one of the most powerful man in the country.
(1) sphere [✓ (2) eminence] (3) proportion (4) magnitude

2. "Have the students been _____ of the tuition hike?" the dean asked.
(1) enlightened (2) acquainted (3) communicated [✓ (4) informed]

3. I admire his _____ but sometimes he can carry it too far when he becomes tactless with his honesty.
[✓ (1) candour] (2) naivety (3) boldness (4) valour

4. This pub is infamous for its _____ crowd. Let's go to another place where the patrons are more civilised and quiet.
[✓ (1) exuberant] (2) exceeding (3) exceptional (4) exciting

5. "It doesn't matter that your uncle is the CEO of this company. We don't promote employees based on _____." the HR manager reminded Josie curtly.
(1) meritocracy (2) impartiality [✓ (3) nepotism] (4) neutrality

6. The proposal is ready for your _____. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.
[✓ (1) perusal] (2) inspection (3) scrutiny (4) assessment

7. My feelings of happiness were _____ by my grief at the news of his sudden death.
(1) defeated (2) surpassed [✓ (3) overtaken] (4) negated

8. The clouds look _____ now. I don't know if we can still have a picnic in the park.
(1) imminent (2) immanent (3) omnipresent [✓ (4) ominous]

9. "If you invest this sum for two years, you can be assured of a _____ ten times the amount of your principal sum," the financial advisor said confidently.
[✓ (1) yield] (2) outcome (3) result (4) reward

10. I have never seen a person with more _____ than William; his enthusiasm and energy can keep him up for hours.
(1) determination [✓ (2) zeal] (3) concentration (4) appeal

1. Benjamin has a photographic memory; he can _____ long passages from books he had read only once through.
(1) repeat (2) dictate [✓ (3) cite] (4) reiterate

. Elaine wanted to have her parents' blessings in her union with Sam, so she hoped for some sign of _____ during dinner with them.
(1) acceptance [✓ (2) approbation] (3) adoration (4) attendance

VOCAB quick CHECK

acquaint - v. make someone aware of or familiar with.
approbation - n. approval; praise.
candour - n. the quality of being open and honest.
cite - v. quote (a book or author) as evidence for an argument.
dictate - v. say or read aloud.
eminence - n. acknowledged superiority within a particular sphere.
exuberant - adj. lively and cheerful.
immanent - adj. existing or operating within.
imminent - adj. about to happen.
impartiality - n. treating all rivals or disputants equally
magnitude - n. great size, extent, or importance.
meritocracy - n. government by people selected according to merit.
naivety - n. the lack of experience, wisdom, or judgement.
nepotism - n. the favouring of relatives or friends, especially by giving them jobs.
neutrality - n. not supporting either side in a conflict or dispute; impartial.
ominous - adj. giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen.
omnipresent - adj. widely or constantly encountered.
perusal - n. read or examine thoroughly or carefully.
reiterate - v. say something again or repeatedly.
scrutiny - n. critical observation or examination.
surpass- v. critical observation or examination.
tactless - adj. showing the lack of sensitivity in dealing with others or with difficult issues.
valour - n. courage in the face of danger, especially in battle.
yield - n. a result or gain.
zeal - n. great energy or enthusiasm for a cause or objective.

Ardous: مشکل - کٹھن - تھکا دینے

neuterality

Challenge 47

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. This club prides itself on having a high profile _____ which includes many pop stars and A-list actors.
(1) customers [✓ (2) clientele] (3) patronage (4) consumerism

2. The football player from the opposing team _____ his opponent for missing the penalty kick.
(1) provoked [✓ (2) taunted] (3) reprimanded (4) rebuked

3. Richard seems completely _____ by Zoe and looks as if he is in a trance!
[✓ (1) mesmerised] (2) dazzled (3) hypnotised (4) stunned

4. The jeep travelled _____ over the uneven terrain before finally reaching its destination.
(1) evenly (2) heftily [✓ (3) bumpily] (4) sturdily

5. The plan was held in _____ until the President arrived and carried out the orders.
(1) reservation (2) abidance [✓ (3) abeyance] (4) suspension

6. Daniel felt _____ to escort Doris home as she was his dinner guest.
(1) gratified (2) necessitated [✓ (3) obliged] (4) strained

7. After Zack was caught for shoplifting, he pleaded not to be charged for his _____.
(1) mistake (2) error (3) blunder [✓ (4) misdemeanour]

8. Still in shock from the accident, Kit was speaking _____ to the policeman who had to calm her down before she could speak properly about what happened.
(1) inarticulately (2) unjointedly [✓ (3) chokingly] (4) incoherently

9. It was a mere _____ that I met him at the cafe; how could I have known he would be there?
(1) coincidence [✓ (2) fluke] (3) accident (4) chance

10. They worked _____ through the night so that the goods would be ready for shipment the next morning.
(1) passionately [✓ (2) arduously] (3) effortlessly (4) fervently

11. Sofia was appalled by the _____ manner in which she was received at the hotel, as she was used to the royal treatment in her hometown.
(1) undesirable (2) indignant [✓ (3) unceremonious] (4) hospitable

12. As soon as the host announced it was time for dinner, everyone made a _____ for the buffet table.
(1) headline [✓ (2) beeline] (3) queue (4) dash

VOCAB quick CHECK

abeyance - n. a state of temporary disuse or suspension.
abidance - n. acceptance in accordance with (a rule or decision).
arduous - adj. difficult and tiring.
beeline - n. hurry directly to.
clientele - n. the customers of a shop, restaurant, etc.
consumerism - n. the preoccupation of society with the acquisition of goods.
fervent - adj. intensely passionate.
fluke - n. an unlikely chance occurrence, especially a stroke of luck.
gratify - v. give pleasure or satisfaction to.
hefty - adj. (of a number or amount) considerable.
hospitable - adj. friendly and welcoming to visitors or guests.
incoherent - adj. incomprehensible or confusing in speech or writing.
indignant - adj. feeling or showing annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment.
mesmerise - v. capture the whole attention of.
misdemeanour - n. a minor wrongdoing.
necessitate - v. make (something) necessary as a result or consequence.
oblige - v. perform a service or favour for.
patronage - n. the regular custom attracted by a restaurant, hotel, etc.
rebuke - v. criticize or reprimand sharply.
reprimand - v. express disapproval of.
suspension - n. halt temporarily.
taunt - v. provoke with a jeering or mocking remark.
terrain - n. a stretch of land, especially with regard to its physical features.
trance - n. a state of abstraction.
unceremonious - adj. discourteous; abrupt.

commence : To begin

Challenge 48

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. I will not stay here and be ridiculed by your _____. Go look for someone else to make fun of.
   (1) adulation (2) imitation (3) insults (4) mockery
   مذاق اڑانا

2. After being told that I was not allowed to browse through the books, I decided to _____ the bookstore and buy my books from a friendlier store.
   (1) boycott (2) blacklist (3) prescribe (4) ostracise
   قطع تعلق

3. It is so _____ to think that all blondes are dumb, because everyone is different and each has her own distinctive traits.
   (1) common (2) cliché (3) conventional (4) conservative

4. Every time the two of them meet, they will get into a friendly _____ which others sometimes misinterpret as a quarrel.
   (1) mischief (2) banter (3) pleasantry (4) repartee
   چھیڑ چھاڑ - ہنسی مذاق

5. The English that Shakespeare used in his plays is _____ and no longer used today.
   (1) bygone (2) archaic (3) quaint (4) outmoded
   پرانا - دقیانوسی

6. Auntie Pat is the most _____ woman I've ever known. If she has made up her mind about something, it will take a miracle for her change it.
   (1) obstinate (2) compromising (3) flexible (4) capricious
   ضدی - ہٹیلا

7. You have to prove your _____ to your competitors. Show them that you have what it takes to win the race and that you are not afraid.
   (1) mettle (2) temperament (3) valour (4) temper

8. After many days, the spy still could not _____ the codes he had stolen from the enemy.
   (1) reveal (2) unravel (3) certify (4) decipher

I will never date a _____ for the simple fact that he will love himself more than he will love me.
(1) fatalist (2) lecher (3) narcissist (4) soloist

The henpecked husband was afraid that his wife would _____ him for his carelessness.
(1) berate (2) mock (3) ridicule (4) taunt
ڈانٹنا

I am unable to see through the window because of its _____ quality.
(1) transparent (2) sooty (3) lacklustre (4) opaque
دھندلا

The course will _____ in September. You have to register early.
1) originate (2) embark (3) commence (4) inaugurate
شروع

VOCAB quick CHECK

adulation - n. excessive admiration.
archaic - adj. belonging to an early period of art or culture.
banter - n. the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks.
berate - v. scold or criticise.
boycott - v. refuse to buy or handle (goods) for this reason.
bygone - adj. belonging to an earlier time.
capricious - adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour.
cliche - adj. showing a lack of originality; or overused.
conventional - adj. overly concerned with tradition.
decipher - v. convert from code into normal language.
distinctive - adj. individually characteristic.
embark - v. begin (a new project or course of action).
fatalist - n. begin (a new project or course of action).
Inaugurate - v. mark the opening of (an institution).
lacklustre - adj. not shining.
mettle - n. a person's ability to cope with difficulties.
mockery - n. ridicule, derision.
narcissist - n. a person who has excessive interest in oneself.
opaque - adj. not transparent.
ostracise - v. exclude from a society or group.
outmoded - adj. old-fashioned.
pleasantry - n. an inconsequential remark made as part of a polite conversation.
prescribe - v. advise and authorize the use of (a medicine or treatment).
quaint - adj. attractively unusual or old-fashioned.
repartee - n. conversation or speech characterized by quick, witty comments or replies.
taunt - v. provoke.
temperament - n. a person's nature.
unravel - v. investigate and solve (a mystery or puzzle).

Laudatus

Enigmatic

Trigamist
Having 3 wives or husb

Reprimand:

Nominal
برائے نام - معمولی

Challenge 49

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. After six months of strict dieting, Carrie is _____ for a tub of chocolate ice cream now.
   (1) lusting (2) yearning (3) pining (4) coveting

2. When the opera singer returned onto the stage, the audience gave him a standing _____.
   (1) applause (2) laudation (3) ovation (4) audition
   تحسین - آفرین - تو صیف

3. His testimony was _____, which was why he could not be a key witness in the trial.
   (1) bizarre (2) enigmatic (3) ambiguous (4) inconclusive

4. By donating almost all his income to help the poor, Mr Tay is truly _____.
   (1) altruistic (2) sacarstic (3) enigmatic (4) candid

5. The _____ that sparked off the whole chain of events was Penny's insulting remarks.
   (1) cause (2) trigger (3) instigator (4) catalyst

6. The tailor only charged me a _____ fee for mending the dress because he knew my parents very well as he used to make dresses for my mother.
   (1) nominal (2) small (3) little (4) minimum

7. Peter becomes as _____ as a lamb whenever Tiffany is around, which is very unlike his usual cocky self.
   (1) unpretentious (2) gentle (3) docile (4) meek

8. "Leave these _____ tasks to the servants! Why should you bother with mopping the floor and cleaning the dishes?" the Duke reprimanded Tracy.
   (1) griping (2) grovelling (3) subservient (4) menial

9. Sandy had enough of Sean's _____ behaviour and it was the last straw when he spoke with his mouth full during a dinner with her friends.
   (1) barbaric (2) boorish (3) bullish (4) immature

10. You will only experience the _____ rites of the cult when you become a member of the religious group.
    (1) mysterious (2) preternatural (3) occult (4) mystifying

11. There's no _____! Stop thinking that the whole world is plotting against you.
    (1) consensus (2) league (3) conspiracy (4) cliche
    سازش

12. Has the jury reached a _____ on the verdict? If any juror disagrees with the final decision, he or she must voice out now.
    (1) unanimity (2) consensus (3) finale (4) conclusion

VOCAB quick CHECK

altruistic - adj. having selfless concern for the well-being of others.
ambiguous - adj. having more than one meaning.
bizarre - adj. very strange or unusual.
boorish - adj. rough and bad-mannered.
bullish - adj. aggressively confident and self-assertive.
candid - adj. truthful and straightforward, frank.
catalyst - n. a person or thing that precipitates an event.
cliche - n. a phrase or opinionthat is overused.
consensus - n. general agreement.
covet - v. yearn to possess (something belonging to someone else).
docile - adj. ready to accept control or instruction; submissive.
enigmatic - adj. difficult to interpret or understand, mysterious.
grovelling - adj. act obsequiously to obtain forgiveness or favour.
inconclusive - adj. not leading to a firm conclusion or result.
laudation - n. praise and commendation.
league - n. a collection of people, countries, or groups that combine for mutual protection or cooperation.
menial - adj. requiring little skill and lacking prestige.
nominal - adj. far below the real value or cost.
occult - adj. supernatural or magical powers or phenomena.
ovation - n. applause, from an audience.
preternatural - adj. beyond what is normal or natural.
subservient - adj. prepared to obey others unquestioningly.
pine - v. miss and long for the return of.
unanimity - n. fully in agreement.
yearn - v. have an intense feeling of loss and longing for something.

Menial: نوکر - خدمتگار

Challenge 50

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The accountant who _____ with the millions of dollars was later found and captured by the police.
(1) aborted [✓ (2) absconded] (3) advanced (4) robbed

2. If we _____ over the details, we will never finish filming this episode by the end of the day.
[✓ (1) niggle] (2) discuss (3) negotiate (4) voice

3. The camel has adapted itself to survive in an _____ environment like the desert for many days without water.
(1) acidic (2) alkaline [✓ (3) arid] (4) avid

4. Auntie Rika thought it was time to get an assistant because her workload at the shop was getting too _____.
(1) endearing (2) mundane (3) routine [✓ (4) onerous]

5. The heartless doctor _____ treatment for Kate because her family could not afford the fees anymore.
[✓ (1) ceased] (2) continued (3) commenced (4) conducted

6. In our multi-racial nation, _____ towards another race or culture will not be tolerated.
(1) impartiality [✓ (2) bigotry] (3) objectivity (4) infidelity

The smooth surface of the table was _____ after Ruby scratched it accidentally with a knife.
(1) disfigured (2) mistreated (3) tainted [✓ (4) marred]

The estranged wife wants to _____ her one-day old marriage and invalidate the union.
[✓ (1) revoke] (2) cancel (3) nullify (4) certify

Nicky thought the _____ was brilliant and she felt very inspired by his speech.
(1) presenter (2) commentator [✓ (3) orator] (4) curator

This computer is already _____; there're faster computers in the market now.
(1) archival (2) antiquated [✓ (3) obsolete] (4) archaic

They used physical and psychological _____ to force the agent to do their bidding.
(1) contemplation [✓ (2) coercion] (3) condition (4) compulsion

ler idea stood out because it was the most _____ one, and not because it as feasible.
) decisive (2) novel [✓ (3) unconventional] (4) ordinary

VOCAB quick CHECK

abscond - v. leave hurriedly and secretly to escape from custody or avoid arrest.
antiquated - adj. old-fashioned or outdated.
archaic - adj. very old or old-fashioned.
archival - adj. of historical documents or records stored in a collection.
arid - adj. (of land or a climate) very dry; having little or no rain.
avid - adj. keenly interested.
bigotry - n. prejudice in views and intolerant of the opinions of others.
coercion - n. force or threat.
compulsion - n. an irresistible urge to behave in a certain way.
contemplation - n. profound thought.
curator - n. a keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection.
endearing - adj. inspiring love or affection.
estranged - adj. cause to feel less close or friendly; alienate.
feasible - adj. possible to do easily or conveniently.
impartiality - n. treating all rivals or disputants equally.
infidelity - n. the action or state of being sexually unfaithful.
mar - v. impair; spoil.
mundane - adj. lacking interest or excitement.
niggle - v. criticize in a petty way.
novel - adj. interestingly new or unusual.
nullify - v. cancel out.
obsolete - adj. no longer produced or used; out of date.
onerous - adj. involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty.
orator - n. a proficient public speaker.
revoke - v. a proficient public speaker.
taint - v. affect with a bad or undesirable quality.
unconventional - adj. not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed.

Murkiness:

Hydoo phobia

9conoc last

Idiotic

Challenge 51

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. I dropped my fountain pen accidentally and the _____ broke, causing the ink to flow out uncontrollably.
(1) tip [✓ (2) nib] (3) pin (4) lid

2. The water in the swamp is too _____ for us to see if there are any fish in it.
(1) muggy (2) milky [✓ (3) murky] (4) overcast

3. He was shocked to see Janet's _____ eyes, and wondered if she had slept at all last night.
(1) bloodied (2) penetrating [✓ (3) bloodshot] (4) blood-curdling

4. The _____ is still underway so we can't tell you what the cause of death is at this point.
(1) operation [✓ (2) autopsy] (3) procedure (4) surgery

5. We all have our own _____ gestures and mannerisms which set us apart from others.
(1) characteristic (2) weird (3) eccentric [✓ (4) idiosyncratic]

6. You cannot make such _____ accusations against Fiona without proper evidence.
[✓ (1) baseless] (2) nonsensical (3) distrustful (4) argumentative

7. Amanda left in a huff because of Andy's apparent _____ towards her even though she has showered him with lots of affection.
[✓ (1) indifference] (2) difference (3) concern (4) contention

8. Cassie wished she belonged to the _____ of popular girls in school; they seemed to be so well-liked.
(1) gang [✓ (2) clique] (3) mob (4) clan

9. The principal decides to _____ the entire school on the problem of truancy, so that the students will think twice before not turning up for class again.
(1) undertake (2) interrogate [✓ (3) address] (4) beseech

10. Jon tried to _____ his angry girlfriend by showering her with gifts but to no avail.
(1) appeal [✓ (2) appease] (3) aggravate (4) applaud

11. The journey to the bottom of the sea is going to be a memorable _____ that I will treasure forever.
(1) trip (2) excursion (3) tour [✓ (4) odyssey]

12. Although Pam is mentally handicapped, you should not call her an _____! It's rude!
[✓ (1) imbecile] (2) inane (3) immature (4) handicap

VOCAB quick CHECK

aggravate - v. make (a problem, illness, etc.) worse.
appease - v. placate (someone) by acceding to their demands.
autopsy - n. a post-mortem examination to discover the cause of death or the extent of disease.
baseless - adj. without foundation in fact.
beseech - v. ask (someone) urgently and fervently for something.
bloodcurdling - adj. horrifying; very frightening.
bloodshot - adj. inflamed or tinged with blood, typically as a result of tiredness.
characteristic - adj. typical of a particular person, place, or thing.
clan - n. a group with a strong common interest.
clique - n. a small close-knit group of people who do not readily allow others to join them.
contention - n. heated disagreement.
eccentric - adj. unconventional and slightly strange.
gesture - n. a movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning.
idiosyncratic - adj. distinctive or peculiar to an individual.
imbecile - n. a stupid person.
inane - adj. lacking sense or meaning, silly.
indifference - n. having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned.
interrogate - v. ask questions of (someone) closely, aggressively, or formally.
mob - n. a disorderly or violent crowd.
nib - n. the pointed end part of a pen, which distributes the ink.
odyssey - n. a long and eventful or adventurous journey or process
overcast - adj. (of the sky or weather) cloudy; dull.
undertake - v. commit oneself to and begin (an enterprise or responsibility).

cliquish:

cliquism:

mandatory :- compulsory

Challenge 52

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. I was as if I was in another world; the swaying palm trees and the golden sandy beaches felt _____ to me.
(1) sedated (2) surreal (3) serene (4) sensitive

2. It is _____ for young men who have reached eighteen years of age to be enlisted for National Service in Singapore.
(1) mandatory (2) optional (3) mandatary (4) elective

3. Do not _____ what others have; be satisfied and thankful for what you have.
(1) replicate (2) covet (3) yearn (4) begrudge

4. My sister had been coming home late almost every night for the past one week, so my father had to _____ her dates to only Friday nights.
(1) reduce (2) lessen (3) curtail (4) abbreviate

5. Catherine is extremely _____ to dirty and dusty places, and so a summer camp in the woods is not something she will sign up for.
(1) avert (2) averse (3) adverse (4) advert

6. Jess was pleasantly surprised at how _____ her new boss was; her first impression of him being aloof was wrong.
(1) afflicted (2) antagonistic (3) intimidating (4) affable

7. Detective Jim is determined to gather more evidence to _____ his claim that the young man is guilty.
(1) suppress (2) quell (3) restrain (4) bolster

8. Sue waited for the _____ moment to ask her boss for a raise so that the chances of her getting an increment is higher.
(1) optimum (2) optional (3) tentative (4) optical

9. Although Thomas' disguise was impeccable, he still couldn't _____ the private detective.
(1) dimwit (2) outwit (3) bewitch (4) besought

0. We wanted to sneak a few bottles of liquor into the dormitory for the party but the headmaster found out and our plan was _____ in the bud.
(1) tweaked (2) nipped (3) capped (4) tapped

1. This is the _____ of the whole matter; we must not ignore it if we want to solve the problem.
(1) core (2) crème (3) crux (4) crust

. She was seriously _____ after she was attacked by her husband viciously.
(1) fractured (2) damaged (3) broken (4) maimed

VOCAB quick CHECK

adverse - v. preventing success or development; unfavourable.
advert - adj. refer to.
affable - adj. good-natured and sociable.
afflicted - adj. cause pain or suffering.
aloof - adj. not friendly.
averse - adj. strongly disliking or opposed.
avert - v. turn away (one's eyes or thoughts).
begrudge - v. envy (someone) the possession or enjoyment of.
besought - v. ask (someone) urgently for something.
bewitch - v. enchant.
bolster - v. strengthen.
covet - v. yearn to possess (something belonging to someone else).
creme - n. a creamy consistency.
crux - n. the decisive or most important point at issue.
curtail - v. place a restriction on.
dormitory - n. a bedroom for a number of people in a school.
elective - adj. chosen rather than compulsory.
impeccable - adj. in accordance with the highest standards.
maim - v. wound or injure (someone) so that part of the body is permanently damaged.
mandatary - adj. a person or state receiving a mandate.
mandatory - adj. compulsory.
nip - v. suppress or destroy something at an early stage.
outwit - v. deceive by greater ingenuity.
quell - v. put an end by force.
replicate - v. reproduce.
sedated - adj. staid and rather dull.
surreal - adj. bizarre.
tentative - adj. hesitant.
tweak - v. twist or pull with a small sharp movement.
yearn - v. have an intense feeling of loss and longing for.

harass
meticulous

narrow

Challenge 53

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The children were _____ in doing their homework and did not pay much attention to what Mr Wee was saying.
(1) harassed (2) wearied (3) engrossed (4) enchanted

2. The stand-up comedian is well known for her _____ of famous politicians.
(1) distortion (2) illustration (3) mockery (4) mimicry

3. Both chief executive officers will hold a press conference to announce the _____ of the two companies.
(1) merger (2) union (3) fusion (4) reunion

4. Ron had the _____ to defy the millionaire's death threats and eloped with his daughter.
(1) audacity (2) insolence (3) authenticity (4) atrocity

5. Mr Benson is a world-renowned _____, so rest assured that he knows how to treat your heart ailment.
(1) radiologist (2) gynaecologist (3) cardiologist (4) pathologist

6. To make ends meet, David who has a regular job as a clerk, _____ as a bartender at a nightclub.
(1) operates (2) functions (3) activates (4) moonlights

7. Mother has been hustling the maid to polish all the silverware because we are expecting a _____ guest for dinner tonight.
(1) memorable (2) defined (3) distinguished (4) notorious

8. Some thought that it's a bad _____ to have a black cat cross your path, while others think nothing of it.
(1) sign (2) irony (3) symbol (4) omen

9. Alice's mentor _____ her to be a knowledgeable and responsible young lady; now that she has grown up, she is determined to contribute to society.
(1) nurtured (2) disciplined (3) sustained (4) supervised

10. Scrooge is a _____ man who doesn't understand the giving and sharing spirit of Christmas.
(1) meticulous (2) menacing (3) miserly (4) measly

11. Cheryl is in the _____ lately because she just lost her job and has no money to pay her rent.
(1) symptom (2) syndrome (3) doldrums (4) melancholy

12. I heard a _____! I think somone needs help. We are going over to take a look.
(1) screech (2) shriek (3) bellow (4) yell

VOCAB quick CHECK

ailment - n. a minor illness.
atrocity - n. an extremely wicked or cruel act.
audacity - n. lack of respect.
bellow - n. a loud, deep shout or sound.
cardiology - n. branch of medicine concerned with diseases and abnormalities of the heart.
doldrums - n. a state of stagnation or depression.
engross - v. absorb all the attention of.
fusion - n. incorporates elements.
gynaecology - n. branch of medicine concerned with the functions and diseases specific to women and girls.
harass - v. torment by subjecting to constant interference or intimidation.
hustle - v. force to move hurriedly or unceremoniously.
insolence - n. disrespect.
irony - n. expression of meaning through the use of language signifying the opposite, typically for humorous effect.
measly - adj. contemptibly small or few.
melancholy - n. severe depression.
menacing - adj. threatening.
meticulous - adj. very careful and precise.
mimicry - n. the action or skill of mimicking someone or something.
mockery - n. an absurd imitation.
moonlight - v. do a second job, especially secretly and at night.
notorious - adj. famous for some bad quality or deed.
nurture - v. rear and encourage the development of (a child).
pathology - n. branch of medicine concerned with the causes and effects of diseases.
radiology - n. science of X-rays and other high-energy radiation, especially as used in medicine.
sustain - v. keep (something) going over time or continuously.

Radiology Sci.
of X-Rays

Challenge 56

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. He asked me to fill up all the compulsory fields in this form and leave the _____ ones blank if I want to.
(1) essential (2) obligatory (3) optional [✓ (4) mandatory]

2. Heidi's _____ nature is a cause of concern for Ross, her superior, who doubts her seriousness at work.
[✓ (1) saucy] (2) flippant (3) superficial (4) flagrant

3. As Fiona was _____ to agree to the plan, Todd knew she wasn't sure.
(1) hesitant (2) poised (3) wavering [✓ (4) swithering]

4. If _____ is wit, then Hanson is not very smart as he loves to tell long stories.
(1) clarity [✓ (2) brevity] (3) quality (4) terseness

5. Mother is the _____ in our family; she makes all the decisions in our household.
(1) matron (2) monarch (3) mascot [✓ (4) matriarch]

6. By setting up a peace treaty, the two nations hope to _____ any potential clashes in the future.
(1) withdraw (2) reinstate [✓ (3) forestall] (4) extract

7. Remy finally _____ enough courage to propose to Janice, whom he had courted for several years.
(1) gathered (2) mastered (3) amassed [✓ (4) mustered]

8. Dad has _____ so he can't see the bus number at a distance without his glasses.
[✓ (1) myopia] (2) astigmatism (3) cataracts (4) far-sightedness

9. Jane has always been very _____ with her work. She never leaves a project uncompleted or not properly done.
(1) careful [✓ (2) conscientious] (3) painstaking (4) solicitous

10. Mr Choy's students hated it whenever he used _____ language during his literature lectures as it made him seem conceited and arrogant.
(1) inflected (2) grand (3) bombastic (4) inflated

1. "Brain or _____?" Mary asked me as she held up a picture of two men, one with rippling muscles and the other with a pair of thick glasses.
(1) body (2) bulge [✓ (3) brawn] (4) bulk

2. Terry's grandmother is a/an _____ woman who wants his prospective wife to be someone good enough for him and who can bring pride to their family.
[✓ (1) supercilious] (2) contented (3) superstitious (4) overbearing

VOCAB quick CHECK

amass - v. accumulate over time

astigmatism - n. a deviation in the curvature of the lens, resulting in distorted images

brawn - n. physical strength

brevity - n. concise and exact use of words

cataract - n. the lens of the eye becomes progressively opaque, resulting in blurred vision.

flagrant - adj. conspicuous; blatant.

flippant - adj. not showing the appropriate seriousness.

forestall - v. prevent or obstruct (something anticipated).

inflated - adj. increase by a large or excessive amount.

inflected - adj. vary the intonation or pitch of (the voice).

mandatory - adj. compulsory.

mascot - n. a person or thing that is supposed to bring good luck.

matriarch - n. a woman who is the head of a family or tribe.

matron - n. a woman in charge of domestic and medical arrangements at a boarding school.

monarch - n. a sovereign head of state.

muster - v. summon up (a feeling, attitude, or response).

myopia - n. short-sightedness.

obligatory - adj. compulsory.

overbearing - adj. unpleasantly overpowering.

painstaking - adj. employing great care and thoroughness.

poised - adj. elegant.

reinstate - v. restore to a former position or state.

saucy - adj. cheeky.

solicitous - adj. showing interest or concern.

supercilious - adj. having an air of contemptuous superiority.

swither - v. be indecisive

terseness - n. abruptness.

waver - v. flicker

Challenge 57

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. For someone who is afraid of speaking in public, it must have been an _____ for Kelvin to speak in front of the entire school.
(1) ordeal (2) achievement (3) effort (4) attempt

2. Monica's face looked _____ after she had lost weight, making her seemed pallid and unhealthy.
(1) angular [✓ (2) gaunt] (3) desolate (4) attenuated

3. The bank will _____ the amount from your account once you make a purchase.
(1) reduce (2) decrease [✓ (3) debit] (4) credit

4. The girls are all swooning over Evan. They think that he's the most _____ man they have ever met.
(1) incredible (2) handsome [✓ (3) chivalrous] (4) honourable

5. The company promised Calvin that his pay will _____ with his experience and qualifications.
[✓ (1) commensurate] (2) match (3) equalise (4) level

6. This is a _____ for pets where they will be safe and well looked after.
(1) shelter [✓ (2) haven] (3) heaven (4) accommodation

7. Hundreds of shoppers _____ at the mall to collect freebies from the promoter.
[✓ (1) congregated] (2) contemplated (3) converged (4) convened

8. The mayor announced that the hospital had diagnosed hundreds of patients were suffering from the _____, and advised people to stay indoors.
(1) predicament [✓ (2) malady] (3) misfortune (4) indisposition

9. "Look at her shamelessly _____ in the attention!" Mrs Lee remarked sneeringly as Swee Lin walked down the aisle in her stunning outfit.
(1) glowing [✓ (2) basking] (3) soaking (4) shimmering

10. The _____ from the bomb attack was the bloodiest and most gruesome one I've ever seen.
(1) assassination (2) murder (3) slaughter [✓ (4) carnage]

11. Mariah fears _____ more than anything else; she thinks nothing could be worse than being ordinary or common.
[✓ (1) mediocrity] (2) excellence (3) meritocracy (4) superiority

12. Sharon has a _____ for tall and lean guys. All her ex-boyfriends had such physiques.
[✓ (1) penchant] (2) obsession (3) tendency (4) fixation

VOCAB quick CHECK

angular - adj. (of a person) lean and having a prominent bone structure.

assassination - n. murder of (a political or religious leader).

attenuate - adj. reduce the strength, effect, or value of.

bask - v. lie exposed to warmth and sunlight for pleasure.

carnage - n. the killing of a large number of people.

chivalrous - adj. (of a man) courteous and gallant, especially towards women

commensurate - v. corresponding in size or degree.

congregate - v. gather into a crowd or mass.

contemplate - v. look at thoughtfully.

convene - v. come or bring together for a meeting or activity.

converge - v. come together from different directions so as eventually to meet.

debit - v. remove (money) from a customer's account.

desolate - adj. an obsessive interest.

fixation - n. an obsessive interest.

freebie - n. a thing given free of charge.

gaunt - adj. lean and haggard, especially through illness, hunger, or age.

haven - n. a place of safety or refuge.

indisposition - n. unfit for or averse to something.

malady - n. a disease or ailment.

mediocrity - n. average.

ordeal - n. a prolonged painful or horrific experience.

pallid - adj. pale, especially because of poor health.

penchant - n. a strong liking or inclination.

physique - n. the form, size, and development of a person's body.

predicament - n. a difficult situation.

swoon - v. be overcome with adoration or other strong emotion.

Challenge 58

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Our decision was ______ and we were glad to have reached a common agreement so quickly.
(1) ultimate (2) uncanny (3) unassuming [✓ (4) unanimous]

2. Laura is the ideal person for this accounting job because she loves numbers and is ______.
(1) merciless (2) acquisitive (3) mercenary [✓ (4) meticulous]

3. Only an attentive person like Janice can detect Jacob's ______ in his mannerisms and notice the subtle changes in his moods.
(1) traces [✓ (2) nuances] (3) shades (4) tones

4. The manager likes Andy as a worker because he is ______ and trustworthy.
[✓ (1) dependable] (2) dependent (3) depending (4) deceptive

5. The designer ______ my costume with sparkling stones and dazzling gems for dramatic effect.
(1) decorated [✓ (2) embellished] (3) enhanced (4) draped

6. The restaurant manager tried to ______ the angry customer by offering her another bottle of wine on the house.
(1) bribe (2) incense (3) precipitate [✓ (4) placate]

7. Mary has a bad habit of ______ with the affections of her suitors according to her mood.
[✓ (1) dallying] (2) speculating (3) twirling (4) swaying

8. This case truly ______ me! How could fingerprints of the accused be all over the recent crime scene if he has been in a coma for the past two years?
(1) conspires (2) confuses [✓ (3) confounds] (4) astounds

. The point of ______ between the two theories is whether such behaviour is due to nature or nurture.
(1) controversy (2) diversion [✓ (3) contention] (4) digression

. Adam gave a very moving ______ at his best friend's funeral, and most of those present were in tears when he finished.
(1) eulogy [✓ (2) epigraph] (3) epiphany [✓ (4) epitaph]

The conceited Prince treats his guests in a/an ______ manner to show them he is the superior one.
[✓ (1) imperious] (2) humbling (3) joyful (4) condescending

Kitty idolises Jane and tries to ______ her in everything that she does.
(1) imitate (2) follow (3) mimic [✓ (4) emulate]

VOCAB quick CHECK

acquisitive - adj. excessively interested in acquiring money or material things.
astound - v. greatly surprise.
conceited - adj. excessively proud of oneself.
condescending - adj. show that one feels superior.
confound - v. surprise or confuse.
conspire - v. make secret plans jointly to commit an unlawful or harmful act.
controversy - n. prolonged public disagreement.
dally - v. have a casual romantic or sexual relationship with.
deceptive - adj. misleading.
digression - n. leave the main subject temporarily in speech.
drape - v. arrange clothing loosely on or round something.
embellish - v. adorn; decorate.
emulate - v. attempt to match or surpass, typically by imitation.
epigraph - n. an inscription on a building, statue, or coin.
epiphany - n. a moment of sudden and great revelation.
epitaph - n. something serving as a reminder of.
eulogy - n. a speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly.
imperious - adj. arrogant and domineering.
mercenary - adj. primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics.
meticulous - adj. very careful and precise.
nuance - n. a subtle difference in shade of meaning, colour, etc.
nurture - v. upbringing.
placate - v. calm, or pacify.
precipitate - v. cause (an undesirable event) to happen unexpectedly or prematurely.
subtle - adj. understated.
unanimous - adj. fully in agreement.
unassuming - adj. not pretentious or arrogant.
uncanny - adj. strange or mysterious.

gullible

Challenge 59

Ephemeral

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Your inefficiency is a big ______ to the progress of this company!
(1) barrier [✓ (2) impediment] (3) obstruction (4) blockage

2. The Ministry's new programme will be a great ______ to the labour market to increase employment.
(1) impetus (2) enhancement (3) impulsion (4) incentive

3. "Don't be so ______ as to believe everything that he tells you," Madam Tay warns Sara about Tony.
[✓ (1) gullible] (2) complaisant (3) submissive (4) trustworthy

4. These species of flowers are truly unique; their blooms are ______, which means you can only appreciate their beauty at a certain time of the year.
[✓ (1) ephemeral] (2) transient (3) evergreen (4) momentary

5. The monsoon rain fell mercilessly in ______ for months, causing several areas to be flooded.
(1) cascades (2) torrents (3) showers [✓ (4) deluges]

6. I think the guests should observe basic ______ at a formal dinner as it is a sign of respect for oneself and others.
(1) politeness (2) formalities [✓ (3) etiquette] (4) skills

7. Due to the impending storm, the farmers have ______ the poultry into their coops.
[✓ (1) hustled] (2) ushered (3) sent (4) escorted

8. Kim loves the city life because she feels alive with its ______ pulse.
(1) hustle [✓ (2) bustling] (3) lethargic (4) listless

9. What a ______! Jimmy pulled out of the trekking competition at the last minute and now our team will not have enough members to qualify.
(1) brat [✓ (2) bummer] (3) killjoy (4) hindrance

10. The cardboard structure was so ______ that all of us were afraid it would collapse anytime.
[✓ (1) flimsy] (2) frivolous (3) ethereal (4) firm

11. After a few hours of questioning, the Inspector Holmes still couldn't ______ any information from the suspect.
(1) cajole [✓ (2) solicit] (3) elicit (4) illicit

12. Excited about our upcoming holidays in Japan, we quickly got down to discuss the ______.
(1) journey [✓ (2) itinerary] (3) agenda (4) route

VOCAB quick CHECK

agenda - n. a list of items to be discussed at a meeting.
cajole - v. persuade (someone) to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery.
cascade - n. pour downwards rapidly and in large quantities.
complaisant - adj. willing to please others or to accept their behaviour.
deluge - n. a severe flood.
elicit - v. evoke or draw out (a response or answer).
ephemeral - adj. lasting or used for a very short time.
etiquette - n. the customary code of polite behaviour in a society.
ethereal - adj. extremely delicate and light.
formality - n. the rigid observance of rules or convention.
frivolous - adj. not having any serious purpose or value.
hindrance - n. a thing that obstructs.
hustle - v. push roughly; jostle.
illicit - adj. forbidden by law, rules, or custom.
impediment - n. a hindrance or obstruction.
impending - adj. be about to happen.
impetus - n. the force or energy with which a body moves.
impulsion - n. a strong urge to do something.
incentive - n. a thing that motivates or encourages someone to do something.
itinerary - n. a planned route or journey.
killjoy - n. a person who deliberately spoils the enjoyment of others.
solicit - v. ask for or try to obtain (something) from someone.
torrent - n. an overwhelming outpouring.
transient - adj. lasting only for a short time.

Challenge 60

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. If Mr Tan doesn't agree to the burglars' demands, he will put his entire family in ______.
   (1) jeopardy (2) vulnerability (3) risk (4) threat
2. The political candidates try to outdo each other as they ______ for public support and donations.
   (1) haggle (2) clamour (3) vie (4) amass
3. Except for some operational issues which need ironing out, the plan to do this event is very ______.
   (1) probable (2) viable (3) credible (4) applicable
4. Sam and David ______ to have Jason fired from his job by framing him.
   (1) processed (2) considered (3) conspired (4) administered
5. The hike in ticket prices will act as a ______ to prevent too many people from taking the train.
   (1) deterrent (2) abhorrence (3) incentive (4) prohibition
6. Ali is a very ______ young man who loves throwing parties and having fun with his friends.
   (1) cordial (2) introverted (3) gregarious (4) inspirational
7. Since Joe lost his job, he has also become quite ______ with his money.
   (1) spartan (2) economical (3) stingy (4) frugal
8. It was a ______ attempt to get the kids to settle down; they continued to shout and run around the house.
   (1) fruitless (2) futile (3) forlorn (4) impossible
   Nugatory
9. The police sprang a surprise ______ on the living quarters of the foreign workers after receiving a tip-off of probable illegal dealings.
   (1) raid (2) onslaught (3) seizure (4) eruption
10. The distraught mother ______ the kidnappers to return her child safely and promised to pay any amount of ransom.
    (1) instigated (2) demanded (3) implored (4) explored

1. The colours of his clothes were too ______ for Sophie's liking; she preferred dark, subtle hues.
   (1) gaudy (2) outrageous (3) traditional (4) conservative

Kate was afraid that she would ______ reveal the secret to Thomas, so she tried to avoid him as much as she could.
(1) intentionally (2) inadvertently (3) deliberately (4) objectively

VOCAB quick CHECK

abhorrence - n. inspiring disgust and loathing.
administer - v. inspiring disgust and loathing
amass - v. accumulate over time
clamour - v. shout or demand loudly.
conspire - v. make secret plans jointly to commit an unlawful or harmful act.
cordial - adj. warm and friendly.
deliberate - v. engage in long and careful consideration
deterrent - n. a thing that prevents someone from doing something
distraught - adj. very worried and upset.
forlorn - adj. pitifully sad and lonely.
framing - v. produce false incriminating evidence against an innocent person.
frugal - adj. sparing or economical as regards money or food
gaudy - adj. extravagantly or tastelessly bright or showy.
gregarious - adj. fond of company; sociable.
implore - v. beg earnestly or desperately
inadvertent - adj. not resulting from or achieved through deliberate planning.
instigate - v. bring about.
jeopardy - n. danger of loss, harm, or failure.
onslaught - n. a fierce or destructive attack.
prohibition - n. the prevention by law
seizure - n. the action of seizing.
spartan - adj. lacking comfort or luxury; austere.
viable - adj. capable of working successfully; feasible.
vie - v. compete eagerly with others in order to do or achieve something.
vulnerability - n. exposed to the risk of being attacked or harmed.

Challenge 61

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The rumours ______ their already shaky relationship, causing Billie to break off with Ken.
   (1) exacerbated (2) embittered (3) exasperated (4) exaggerated
2. The trainer put Sumi under a ______ exercise regime so that she can be back in shape within two months.
   (1) rigid (2) conscientious (3) tiresome (4) rigorous
3. The latest statistics on the number of refugees from war-torn countries are ______; it's the highest increase ever seen.
   (1) stupefying (2) astounding (3) bewildering (4) flabbergasting
4. I could feel a storm ______ in the room next door; the tension between the estranged couple in there was building up.
   (1) brewing (2) cooking (3) boiling (4) steaming
5. Mother hates to be ______ by the crowd in shopping malls, so she always avoids shopping during the weekends.
   (1) trampled (2) hustled (3) jostled (4) scrambled
6. I'm on a diet so I'm trying to ______ from sugar-rich food.
   (1) distance (2) disassociate (3) refrain (4) renounce
7. It's already time for the lecture and yet the students are just ______ in with their "devil may care" attitude.
   (1) trickling (2) exuding (3) rushing (4) hastening
8. Tony told me that his grandpa has 'gone to heaven' which is a/an ______ for 'died'.
   (1) replacement (2) euphemism (3) translation (4) interpretation
9. I enjoy Mr Conner's class because he can break down the most complicated theories in ______ points and make them comprehensible.
   (1) subtle (2) succinct (3) superficial (4) sufficient
10. The village located down the valley is completely ______ due to the heavy rain.
    (1) inundated (2) deluged (3) enveloped (4) submerged
11. Roger doesn't make a good director because he is ______ and thus wastes a lot of time in unncessary work.
    (1) swithering (2) determined (3) decisive (4) irresolute
12. The boss gave ______ to his right-hand man who has brought in huge earnings for the company over the past few years.
    (1) rewards (2) tokens (3) laudation (4) kudos

VOCAB qu'ck CHECK

astounding - adj. shocking.
astronomical - adj. (of an amount) extremely large.
bewildering - adj. perplexing or confusing
conscientious - adj. wishing to do what is right.
deluge - v. overwhelm.
embitter - v make bitter or resentful.
estranged - adj. feel less close or friendly; alienated.
euphemism - n. a mild or less direct word substituted for one that is harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing.
exacerbate - v. make (something bad) worse.
exasperate - v. irritate intensely.
exude - v. display (an emotion or quality) strongly and openly.
flabbergasting - adj. surprise greatly.
hasten - v. cause to happen sooner than anticipated.
hustle - v. force to move hurriedly.
inundate - v. flood (a place).
irresolute - adj. hesitant; uncertain
jostle - v. push or bump against roughly.
kudos - n. praise and honour.
laudation - n. praise and commendation.
renounce - v. formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession).
subtle - adj. capable of making fine distinctions.
succinct - adj. briefly and clearly expressed.
swithering - adj. indecisive.
token - n. a thing serving to represent a fact, quality, feeling, etc.

Challenge 62

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. I could smell the _____ aroma of coffee wherever I turn. It was almost as if the entire house is built on coffee beans!
(1) permissive [✓ (2) permeating] (3) pervasive (4) waning

2. The demoness has an _____ thirst for the flesh of young and virile men; she has them for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
(1) intensive (2) extensive [✓ (3) insatiable] (4) exhaustive

3. "Are you trying to _____ that I'm getting fat?" Martha asked Ping angrily when the latter commented that Martha is getting 'fleshier'.
[✓ (1) insinuate] (2) announce (3) proclaim (4) declare

4. Lena is _____ from all physical activities in school because of her injury.
(1) excused (2) excluded (3) liberated [✓ (4) exempted]

5. The extra funds should _____ the building of the new government office at a faster rate.
(1) impede [✓ (2) expedite] (3) facilitate (4) hinder

6. Teresa, who had lost her beloved puppy, was searching for it _____.
[✓ (1) fervently] (2) frantically (3) systematically (4) steadily

7. "Stop throwing silly _____! This is a public place!" my father warned my little sister who was making a lot of noise in the toy store.
[✓ (1) tantrums] (2) temper (3) tension (4) temperament

8. We had a/an _____ agreement based on our conversation over the phone; there wasn't any written evidence.
(1) explicit (2) signed [✓ (3) tacit] (4) valid

9. Everyone thinks Cherry is extremely fun to be with because she has such a _____ personality.
(1) forthcoming [✓ (2) vivacious] (3) sullen (4) despondent

10. If you continue to spread such vicious and untrue rumours about Stan, his reputation will be _____.
[✓ (1) tarnished] (2) flawless (3) impeccable (4) destroyed

11. Rose has the most paranoid character; she's constantly worried that something _____ will happen to her family.
[✓ (1) untoward] (2) sensational (3) undesirable (4) ominous

12. Hitler _____ the Jews from the other ethnic groups and treated them with contempt.
(1) separated (2) displaced [✓ (3) segregated] (4) banished

VOCAB quick CHECK

banish - v. send someone away, especially from a country.
despondent - adj. in low spirits from loss of hope or courage.
exempt - v. free from an obligation.
exhaustive - adj. fully comprehensive.
expedite - v. cause to be accomplished more quickly.
fervent - adj. intensely passionate.
forthcoming - adj. about to happen or appear.
impeccable - adj. in accordance with the highest standards.
impede - v. delay or block the progress or action of.
insatiable - adj. impossible to satisfy.
insinuate - v. suggest (something bad) in an indirect and unpleasant way.
ominous - adj. giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen.
permeating - adj. spread throughout; pervade.
permissive - adj. allowing or characterized by freedom of behaviour.
pervasive - adj. spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people.
segregate - v. set apart from the rest or from each other.
sullen - adj. bad-tempered and sulky.
tacit - adj. understood or implied without being stated.
tantrum - n. an uncontrolled outburst of anger and frustration, typically in a young child.
tarnish - v. make less valuable or respected
temperament - n. a person's nature with regard to the effect it has on their behaviour.
untoward - adj. unexpected and innppropriate or undesirable.
virile - adj. (of a man) having strength, energy, and a strong sex drive.
vivacious - adj. attractively lively and animated.
wan - adj. (of light) pale; weak.

Challenge 63

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. As a _____ data-entry clerk who works at the computer for ten hours every day, it is no wonder that Norman leads a monotonous life.
(1) active [✓ (2) sedentary] (3) vivacious (4) lacklustre

2. Whenever my mother is provoked, she will launch into a/an _____, scolding us about matters as far back as a year ago.
(1) lashing [✓ (2) outburst] (3) rage (4) fit

3. Ivy becomes _____ whenever she is approached by a smooth-talker because she has been duped by one before and does not want to experience it again.
(1) vigilant (2) elusive (3) abusive [✓ (4) apprehensive]

4. Flora gave Ricky a/an _____ when she said she will leave him if he ever cheats on her again.
[✓ (1) ultimatum] (2) warning (3) prospect (4) leeway

5. How can someone so refined be going out with someone so _____ like him?
(1) classy (2) well-bred [✓ (3) uncouth] (4) common

6. My cousin has been trying to _____ with the harsh reality of being a widow after her husband passed away.
(1) tackle [✓ (2) grapple] (3) wrestle (4) confront

7. 'Cry wolf' is a _____ that teaches us to be always truthful and not to tell lies.
[✓ (1) cliché] (2) myth (3) legend [✓ (4) parable]

8. When Keith was lost in the woods, he depended on wild fruits and certain insects for _____.
[✓ (1) sustenance] (2) maintenance (3) preservation (4) livelihood

9. Although Alan isn't infected by the virus, he is a _____ so he should be quarantined.
(1) victim (2) sufferer [✓ (3) carrier] (4) casualty

10. A good argumentative essay is _____ by actual examples or forms of evidence.
(1) endorsed (2) sworn (3) approved [✓ (4) substantiated]

11. I found neither his sense of humour nor his pasta _____ to me.
(1) tasteful (2) savoury [✓ (3) palatable] (4) appetising

12. The murderer feels immense _____ for the hideous crime he has committed, and begs for the family's forgiveness.
[✓ (1) remorse] (2) grief (3) regret (4) compassion

VOCAB quick CHECK

apprehensive - adj. capable of being understood or perceived.
carrier - n. a person or animal that transmits a disease-causing organism to others.
cliche - n. a phrase or opinion that is overused and shows a lack of original thought.
elusive - adj. difficult to find, catch, or achieve.
endorse - v. declare one's public approval of.
grapple - v. struggle to deal with (a problem).
lacklustre - adj. lacking in vitality, force, or conviction.
lashing - n. a whipping or beating.
leeway - n. the amount of freedom to move or act that is available.
monotonous - adj. not interesting because of lack of change or variety.
myth - n. a widely held but false belief.
outburst - n. a sudden release of strong emotion or an outbreak of an activity.
palatable - adj. pleasant to taste.
parable - n. a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.
prospect - n. the possibility off some future event occurring
quarantine - v. isolate people or animals that have been exposed to contagious disease.
remorse - n. deep regret.
savoury - adj. salty or spicy rather than sweet.
sedentary - adj. tending to spend much time seated.
substantiate - v. provide evidence to support or prove the truth of.
sustenance - n. food and drink regarded as sustaining life.
ultimatum - n. a final demand or statement of terms
uncouth - adj. lacking good manners, refinement, or grace.
vigilant - adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger.
vivacious - adj. attractively lively and animated.

Challenge 64

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The referee ruled Rooney out of the game after he _____ the rules repeatedly.
(1) spurned (2) disregarded (3) outraged [✓ (4) flouted]

2. The preacher is a very _____ man, and he will often sense what your problems are even before you tell him anything.
(1) penetrative [✓ (2) discerning] (3) telepathic (4) ingenious

3. I don't think Stacy is appeased yet. I think she's still fuming mad but she's staying _____ until she gets a chance to explode.
(1) inoperative [✓ (2) dormant] (3) hushed (4) stagnant

4. "Since you're the the captain, we will leave it to your own _____ to decide what to do."
[✓ (1) discretion] (2) decision (3) peril (4) discernment

5. Sarah reminded the professor that he has _____ from the topic at hand, and he still hasn't answered her question.
(1) diverged (2) dismissed (3) deviated [✓ (4) digressed]

6. There's a killer on the loose and he's on a killing _____, so everyone has been advised not to be out alone.
[✓ (1) rampage] (2) spree (3) extravaganza (4) binge

7. Since he was under the influence of drugs, he may have _____ the whole incident.
(1) fantasised (2) envisioned [✓ (3) hallucinated] (4) imagined

8. The auditors found some _____ in the books so they decided to conduct a more thorough investigation.
[✓ (1) discrepancies] (2) irregularities (3) abnormalities (4) faults

9. Josie cried when she saw the two ill-fated lovers finally reunited as it was such a _____ moment.
(1) intense (2) gratifying [✓ (3) heart-rending] (4) heart-breaking

10. Why would Greg care about anyone else? He is such an _____ person.
(1) easy-going [✓ (2) egocentric] (3) erratic (4) even-tempered

11. The Emperor could not _____ why his Queen would betray him, until his adviser pointed it out to him.
(1) deduce (2) plummet (3) presume [✓ (4) fathom]

2. Though the two girls are in no way related, they bear an _____ resemblance to each other.
(1) similar (2) alarming [✓ (3) uncanny] (4) amusing

VOCAB quick CHECK

auditor - n. a person who inspects an organization's accounts.
binge - n. a period of excessive indulgence.
deviate - v. diverge from an established course or from usual or accepted standards.
digress - v. leave the main subject temporarily in speech or writing.
discepancy - n. a difference or lack of compatibility between two or more facts that should be similar.
discerning - adj. having or showing good judgement.
discretion - n. the freedom to decide on a course of action.
dormant - adj. temporarily inactive.
egocentric - adj. self-centred.
envision - n. imagine; visualize
erratic - adj. not even or regular in pattern or movement.
extravaganza - n. an elaborate and spectacular entertainment.
fathom - v. understand (something) after much thought.
flout - v. openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention).
gratifying - adj. give pleasure or satisfaction to.
heart-rending - adj. causing great sadness or distress.
hushed - adj. causing great sadness or distress.
ingenious - adj. clever, original, and inventive.
penetrative - adj. having or showing clear insight.
peril - n. a situation of serious and immediate danger.
plummet - v. fall or drop straight down at high speed.
rampage - n. rush around in a violent and uncontrollable manner.
spurn - v. reject with disdain or contempt.
telepathic - adj. able to communicate thoughts by means other than the known senses.
uncanny - adj. strange or mysterious.

Pacific

Challenge 65

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. I woke up one Saturday to the _____ sound of the secondary school military band tuning up, and I could not go back to sleep again.
[✓ (1) discordant] (2) harmonious (3) melodious (4) incompatible

2. All the students were in a _____ mood after the examinations were over, so they decided to celebrate by going on a holiday.
(1) sombre (2) gracious [✓ (3) jubilant] (4) cordial

3. It is _____ of Terry to think that he has won the heart of Tina as they have only gone out together once.
(1) ridiculous [✓ (2) presumptuous] (3) audacious (4) absurd

4. The principal conducts a _____ check on the students' uniforms once in a while; we can't tell when the next inspection will be.
[✓ (1) random] (2) arbitrary (3) haphazard (4) thorough

5. My child caught a flu bug, so my sister-in-law brought him to the _____.
(1) surgeon (2) optician [✓ (3) paediatrician] (4) therapist

6. When the two fighter jets collided into each other during the performance, _____ broke out among the spectators.
(1) turbulence (2) pandemonium [✓ (3) turmoil] (4) clamour

7. The teacher told the boy that what he had done was not a _____ matter, and that she would need to meet up with his parents.
[✓ (1) trivial] (2) paltry (3) inconsiderable (4) trifling

8. Jasmine takes care of her grandmother with _____ love and devotion, which makes her an exemplary model of filial piety.
(1) wavering [✓ (2) unfaltering] (3) volatile (4) unstable

9. After a sleepless night, Jack went to work the next morning looking _____ and dazed.
(1) unclean (2) blemished (3) undesirable [✓ (4) unkempt]

10. Roy is _____ so he needs to take more iron supplements to boost his health.
(1) diabetic (2) anorexic (3) bulimic [✓ (4) anaemic]

11. Binbin hopes her client will _____ his payment to her as she needs to settle her bills quickly.
(1) hasten (2) quicken [✓ (3) expedite] (4) impede

12. Suspecting that Auntie Su may have contracted cancer, the doctor decides to conduct a/an _____ to get a more definite result.
(1) autopsy [✓ (2) biopsy] (3) check (4) scan

VOCAB quick CHECK

anaemic - adj. suffering from a deficiency of red blood cells.
anorexic - adj. suffering from a lack of appetite for food.
arbitrary - adj. based on random choice or personal whim.
audacious - adj. recklessly daring.
autopsy - n. a post-mortem examination to discover the cause of death or the extent of disease.
biopsy - n. an examination of tissue taken from the body, to discover the disease.
blemished - adj. spoil the appearance of
bulimic - adj. suffering from an emotional disorder characterized by bouts of overeating.
clamour - n. a loud and confused noise
cordial - adj. warm and friendly.
discordant - adj. lacking harmony or agreement.
exemplary - adj. serving as a desirable model.
expedite - v. cause to be accomplished more quickly.
haphazard - adj. lacking order or organisation.
impede - v. delay or block the progress or action of.
jubilant - adj. happy and triumphant.
paediatrics - n. branch of medicine concerned with children and their diseases.
paltry - adj. (of an amount) very small or meagre.
pandemonium - n. wild and noisy disorder or confusion.
presumptuous - adj. failing to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate.
trifling - adj. unimportant.
~~**trivial** - adj. of little value.~~
turbulence - n. disorder.
turmoil - n. a state of great disturbance or uncertainty.
unfaltering - adj. not steady.
unkempt - adj. untidy.
volatile - adj. liable to change.
wavering - adj. begin to weaken, falter

Challenge 66

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. This shop charges _____ prices for their electronic goods! I'm sure we can find more reasonably-priced products somewhere else.
(1) unwarranted (2) dear [✓ (3) exorbitant] (4) expensive

2. Apple tried to _____ her laughter when her date accidentally spilt his drink over his pants.
(1) extinguish [✓ (2) suppress] (3) submerge (4) oppress

3. The opposition politician caused an _____ during a parliamentary session when he openly criticised the Prime Minister for misusing the public funds.
(1) uprising (2) turbulence [✓ (3) uproar] (4) unrest

4. The traffic police _____ his driving license as he had sped across a red light.
(1) confiscated [✓ (2) suspended] (3) withhold (4) removed

5. The young lady fainted from heat stroke under the _____ afternoon sun.
[✓ (1) arid] (2) steaming (3) stimulating (4) humid

6. After a thorough calculation, we still have a _____ of $2,000 and we have no idea where this extra sum came about.
Usage
(1) deficit (2) superabundance [✓ (3) surplus] (4) accumulation

7. Sunny was _____ after fasting for two days, so he gorged himself with food to satisfy his hunger on the third day.
[✓ (1) ravenous] (2) insatiable (3) predatory (4) ravishing

8. Mother was vexed with Teddy's increasingly difficult behaviour but Auntie Goh assured her that it's a normal phase of teenage _____.
[✓ (1) rebellion] (2) disobedience (3) naughtiness (4) stubbornness

9. The governess is a _____ lady who has neither the patience for nonsense nor rule-breaking behaviour.
(1) flexible (2) relenting [✓ (3) rigid] (4) yielding

0. The problem of depression is becoming increasingly _____ amongst today's youth, and the officials are stepping up ways to rectify this serious issue.
(1) restricted (2) contained (3) controlled [✓ (4) rampant]

. The obsessive fan is issued a court order to stay away from the actress and is not allowed any close _____ to her.
(1) distance [✓ (2) proximity] (3) attachment (4) closeness

. Death by hanging is the punishment for convicted murderers according to the _____ of our court.
(1) rule (2) system (3) authority [✓ (4) jurisdiction]

VOCAB quick CHECK

arid - adj. (of land or a climate) very dry; having little or no rain.
convicted - adj. declared guilty of a criminal offence by the verdict of a jury.
deficit - n. the amount by which something, especially a sum of money, falls short.
exorbitant - adj. (of a price or amount charged) unreasonably high.
insatiable - adj. impossible to satisfy.
jurisdiction - n. the official power to make legal decisions and judgements.
predatory - adj. (of an animal) preying naturally on others.
proximity - n. (of an animal) preying naturally on others.
rampant - adj. flourishing or spreading unchecked.
ravenous - adj. voraciously hungry.
ravishing - adj. causing intense delight; entrancing.
rectify - v. put right; correct.
relenting - adj. abandon or mitigate a harsh intention or cruel treatment.
stimulating - adj. exciting.
superabundance - n. excessive in quantity.
surplus - n. an amount left over when requirements have been met.
unrest - n. a state of rebellious dissatisfaction and agitation in a group of people.
unwarranted - adj. not justified or authorised.
uprising - n. an act of resistance or rebellion.
uproar - n. a loud and impassioned noise or disturbance.
yielding - adj. give way to demands or pressure, submissive.

Fictitious

Challenge 67

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The peeping tom was apprehended at last and punished accordingly for his _____ behaviour.
[✓ (1) irreverent] (2) lewd (3) disgraceful (4) demeaning
disrespectful

2. The fact that she was able to read three novels within two months is indeed _____ and deserves commendation.
[✓ (1) laudable] (2) admirable (3) honourable (4) respectable

3. "Jack be _____, Jack be quick!" The kids sang as Jack climbed up the tree to pluck the coconuts.
(1) hasty (2) prompt (3) patient [✓ (4) swift]

4. The witnesses are under _____ to tell the truth in court; failing with which they will be punished by the law.
(1) promise [✓ (2) oath] (3) vow (4) pledge

5. The event was a huge _____ and the organizers were dismayed by the turnout and the loss they made.
(1) tumble [✓ (2) flop] (3) blunder (4) mistake

6. The person in the film is only a _____ character; no such person exists in real life.
[✓ (1) fictitious] (2) fraudulent (3) factual (4) conjured

7. After the boy was hit on the head, he fell onto the ground and appeared _____.
(1) disturbed (2) perturbed (3) blurry [✓ (4) groggy]

8. This project is so simple and easy to execute that it's practically _____.
(1) impossible (2) justifiable [✓ (3) foolproof] (4) certain

9. The company has no proper system in place and everything is done in a _____ manner.
(1) hapless [✓ (2) haphazard] (3) arbitrary (4) hesitant

10. The mermaid looked _____ towards the castle, and wondered when she could see her handsome Prince again.
(1) cheerfully (2) wretched (3) blissfully [✓ (4) forlornly]

11. The parents were trying to get their _____ children to sit still throughout the church service.
(1) agitated (2) twitchy [✓ (3) fidgety] (4) uneasy

12. He made a _____ with his friend saying that he could get twenty ladies to ask him out within a week.
(1) challenge (2) gamble [✓ (3) wager] (4) stake

VOCAB quick CHECK

arbitrary - adj. based on random choice or personal whim.
blunder - n. a stupid or careless mistake.
conjured - adj. cause to appear as if by magic.
demeaning - adj. beneath one's dignity.
factual - adj. based on or concerned with fact or facts.
forlorn - adj. pitifully sad and lonely.
fraudulent - adj. deceitful or dishonest.
haphazard - adj. lacking order or organisation.
hapless - adj. unlucky, unfortunate.
hasty - adj. done or acting with haste, hurried.
irreverant - adj. disrespectfil.
justifiable - adj. able to be justified.
laudable - adj. deserving praise and commendation.
lewd - adj. crude and offensive in a sexual way.
oath - n. a solemn promise.
perturbed - adj. anxious or unsettled.
tumble - n. an untidy or confused arrangement or state.
wager - n. a sum of money staked.
wretched - adj. in a very unhappy or unfortunate state, miserable.

Challenge 68

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. You can write a letter to the HR department if you have any _____ and necessary steps will be taken to rectify the situation.
   (1) grievances (2) grief (3) accusation (4) criticism

2. You can touch and see material things like money but you can't do that with _____ things.
   [✓ (1) infinite] (2) untouchable (3) immeasurable (4) intangible

3. The bomb scare turned out to be a _____ and the police is now looking for the prankster.
   (1) hoax (2) deception (3) trick [✓ (4) swindle]

4. The mafia boss _____ the entire scam and used little children to carry out his criminal operations.
   (1) generated (2) initiated [✓ (3) incited] (4) instigated

5. Ray has grown _____ to unkind comments about his handicap; he just smiles and moves on.
   (1) sheltered [✓ (2) immune] (3) invisible (4) hardened

6. The resort is an _____ spot which is perfect for relaxation and rest .
   (1) idyllic (2) picturesque (3) impeccable (4) idealistic

7. I thought ballerinas are all _____ and graceful until I met Meg who is six feet tall.
   (1) exquisite (2) finicky [✓ (3) dainty] (4) ungainly

8. I feel sympathy for the homeless and _____ who wander the streets with no roof over their heads.
   (1) despaired [✓ (2) destitute] (3) impoverished (4) distressed

9. Humans are _____ because we are not perfect, and have many weaknesses.
   (1) fallible (2) destructible [✓ (3) impressionable] (4) vulnerable

10. In India, she belongs to the lowest _____ of people whom everyone else discriminates against.
    (1) status (2) caste [✓ (3) class] (4) rank

11. His grandmother was a _____ who passed away only last year at the ripe old age of 103 years old.
    (1) centenarian [✓ (2) centurion] (3) sentry (4) sedentary

12. The senator was praised by his constituents for _____ against the proposed tax.
    (1) carolling (2) supporting (3) canvassing [✓ (4) voting]

VOCAB quick CHECK

canvass - v. solicit votes from (electors).

caste - n. social status

centenarian - n. a person a hundred or more years old

centurion - n. the commander of a century in the ancient Roman army

dainty - adj. delicate and graceful in build or movement

deception - n. the action of deceiving

destitute - adj. extremely poor and lacking the means to provide for oneself

exquisite - adj. very beautiful and delicate

fallible - adj. capable of making mistakes or being wrong

finicky - adj. excessively detailed or elaborate

grievance - n. a real or imagined cause for complaint.

hoax - n. a humorous or malicious deception

idyllic - adj. blissful or peaceful

impeccable - adj. in accordance with the highest standards

immeasurable - adj. too large, extensive, or extreme to measure.

immune - adj. not affected by something

impoverished - adj. poor.

incite - v. encourage or stir up (violent or unlawful behaviour).

instigate - v. bring about or initiate.

intangible - adj. unable to be touched; lacking a physical presence.

sedentary - adj. tending to spend much time seated.

sentry - n. a soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place.

Avocation

Challenge 69

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The clerk was _____ for trying to embezzle the company's funds, and had to to be temporarily suspended from her job.
   (1) mocked (2) slighted [✓ (3) censured] (4) ridiculed

2. Oil-painting is her _____ and she only does it when she has time after work.
   (1) vocation (2) passion [✓ (3) avocation] (4) occupation

3. The committee finally reached an _____ agreement after much discussion.
   (1) amiable (2) unreserved (3) achievable [✓ (4) amicable]

4. He can be such an _____ guy sometimes. Just when you thought you know him, he'll do something to make you think otherwise.
   (1) evasive (2) exclusive (3) elusive [✓ (4) equivocal]

5. The villagers knew they were facing an _____ disaster when they felt a strong stirring in the wind.
   (1) inevitable (2) inexplicable (3) eminent [✓ (4) imminent]

6. Selling pirated video compact discs is an _____ act in Singapore. Those who commit this act will be dealt with seriously.
   (1) illicit (2) elicit (3) illegible (4) instigated

7. Madam Yeo always plans everything ahead; she even has the words of her own _____ written out so that people will know what to put on her tombstone.
   (1) inscription [✓ (2) epitaph] (3) epigraph (4) epitome

8. The nurse tried to _____ the flow of blood by adding pressure on the open gash.
   (1) steer [✓ (2) staunch] (3) stanch (4) stench

9. Just before Betsy leaves for her date, she _____ herself one last time in front of the mirror.
   [✓ (1) titivates] (2) titters (3) titillates (4) decorates

10. Whether we shop for the gifts today or tomorrow is _____ because we still have to get them anyway.
    (1) irrelevant (2) imperative [✓ (3) immaterial] (4) metaphorical

11. She feels out of place in this rural village because she's too _____ in her dressing compared to the villagers.
    (1) superior (2) urbane (3) utilitarian [✓ (4) urban]

12. "There he goes _____ again after only one drink!" Walter commented of Lionel who didn't seem to be making sense of what he was saying.
    [✓ (1) maundering] (2) meandering (3) drivelling (4) prattling

VOCAB quick CHECK

amiable - adj. friendly and pleasant in manner.

amicable - adj. characterized by friendliness and absence of discord.

avocation - n. a hobby or minor occupation.

censure - v. express severe disapproval of.

drivel - v. talk nonsense.

elicit - v. evoke or draw out (a response or answer).

elusive - adj. difficult to find, catch, or achieve.

eminent - adj. respected and distinguished within a particular sphere.

epigraph - n. an inscription on a building, statue, or coin.

epitaph - n. an inscription on a tombstone.

epitome - n. a person or thing that is a perfect example of (a quality or type).

equivocal - adj. open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous.

illicit - adj. forbidden by law, rules, or custom.

imminent - adj. about to happen.

inexplicable - adj. unable to be explained or accounted for.

inscription - n. a thing inscribed on a monument or in a book

instigate - v. bring about.

maunder - v. move, talk, or act in a rambling or aimless manner.

prattle - v. talk at length in an inconsequential or foolish way.

slight - v. insult (someone) by treating them without proper respect or attention.

staunch - v. stop or restrict (a flow of blood from a wound).

titivate - v. make minor enhancements to.

titillate - v. excite or interest.

urbane - adj. (especially of a man) suave, courteous, and refined.

utilitarian - adj. useful or practical rather than attractive.

vocation - n. a person's employment or main occupation.

Challenge 70

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. News of the boy who was found guilty of _____ rocked the whole nation. People couldn't believe that such a young boy would be capable of murdering his own father.
(1) discrimination [✓ (2) patricide] (3) truancy (4) shoplifting

2. The singer was very _____ by the hate mail she had been receiving from the same person. [illegible]
(1) confused (2) disgusted [✓ (3) perturbed] (4) perplexed

3. The trekkers reached the end of the trail and could not go any further due to the _____ cliff.
[✓ (1) precipitous] (2) perpendicular (3) overhanging (4) dangerous

4. Frank was so _____ with reading the novel that he didn't hear the sound of the doorbell.
[✓ (1) rapt] (2) transported (3) bewitched (4) vexed

5. What he did was _____, and no matter how sorry he is now, he can't bring her back to life.
(1) regrettable [✓ (2) irreparable] ناقابل اصلاح (3) repairable (4) reversible

6. The health resort is very popular as most clients think its seaside location makes it very _____.
(1) restorative (2) invigorating [✓ (3) salubrious] [illegible] (4) reassuring

7. She has been divorced many times because she was _____ in her choice of husbands.
(1) indiscriminate [✓ (2) undiscriminating](3) decisive (4) discerning

8. Sister Ann's compassion towards the lepers is _____; there's no one else like her who does so much for them.
(1) measurable (2) comparable [✓ (3) immeasurable] (4) perceptible

9. Dad built a bookshelf which I found to be very _____ because now my books can be kept properly under different catergories.
(1) practicable [✓ (2) practical] (3) accomplishable(4) user-friendly

10. I didn't finish reading the book because it's so boring that it's virtually _____!
(1) illegible [✓ (2) undecipherable(3) unreadable] (4) legible

11. Such _____ remarks can incite people to rebel against their rules.
(1) flammable [✓ (2) inflammatory] (3) fiery (4) riotous

12. The swimmer _____ himself in water to test how long he can hold his breath.
(1) emerged [✓ (2) immersed] (3) submerged (4) preoccupied

VOCAB quick CHECK

bewitched - adj. enchanted.

discerning - adj. having or showing good judgement.

immeasurable - adj. too large, extensive, or extreme to measure.

indiscriminate - adj. done or acting at random or without careful judgement.

inflammatory - adj. arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings.

invigorating - adj. having strength or energy for.

irreparable - adj. impossible to rectify or repair.

patricide - n. the killing of one's father.

perceptible - adj. (especially of a slight movement or change of state) able to be perceived.

perplexed - adj. cause (someone) to feel baffled.

perturbed - adj. anxious or unsettled.

practicable - adj. able to be done or put into practice successfully.

precipitous - adj. dangerously high or steep.

preoccupied - adj. engrossed to the exclusion of other thoughts.

rapt - adj. fully absorbed and intent; fascinated.

reassuring - adj. of doubts and fears being allayed.

restorative - adj. having the ability to restore health, strength, or a feeling of well-being.

riotous - adj. marked by or involving public disorder.

salubrious - adj. health-giving; healthy.

undecipherable - adj. (of speech or writing) not able to be read or understood.

Challenge 71

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The star player was unpopular among his team-mates because of his _____ behaviour on the field towards them.
[✓ (1) derisive] (2) submissive (3) destructive (4) decisive

2. The stolen car was _____ in the trunk to evade detection from the police at the customs.
(1) disseminated (2) exposed [✓ (3) disassembled] (4) dissimulated

3. The tomb raiders scoured the _____ of the ancient temple in a bid to search for priceless treasures.
[✓ (1) remnants] (2) remainder (3) fragments (4) residue

4. Carman hopes to _____ enough support to start a club for abused animals.
[✓ (1) garner] (2) reserve (3) assemble (4) hoard

5. How do you plan to _____ his statement unless you already have a counter-argument in mind?
(1) attest [✓ (2) refute] (3) negate (4) approve

6. I am _____ to be sceptical towards his writing because of his dubious background.
(1) incited [✓ (2) inclined] (3)attracted (4) enamoured

7. The banker assured Jon that he will make a _____ profit out of his investment.
(1) productive [✓ (2) lucrative] (3) advantageous (4) remunerative

8. The security guard is alerted of a stranger who seems to be _____ suspiciously around the premises.
(1) loitering [✓ (2) lurking] (3) swaggering (4) pacing

9. His wife pleaded with him not to seek vengeance against the triad leader and put his life at risk in such a/an _____ situation.
[✓ (1) perilous] (2) insecure (3) unstable (4) menacing

10. Fred practically worships Laura and thinks that she is the _____ of virtue and beauty.
(1) pedestal [✓ (2) paragon] (3) pinnacle (4) peak

11. His lips were severely _____ and his skin badly scorched after fourteen days under the hot desert sun.
(1) scalded (2) burnt [✓ (3) parched] (4) shrivelled

12. I was treated to a _____ Christmas feast at my best friend's home; they overwhelmed me with a sense of family warmth.
(1) overflowing [✓ (2) sumptuous] (3) abundant (4) bounteous

VOCAB quick CHECK

attest - v. provide or serve as clear evidence of.

bounteous - adj. bountiful.

derisive - adj. expressing contempt or ridicule.

disassemble - v. take to pieces.

disseminate - v. spread widely.

dissimulate - v. hide or disguise one's thoughts or feelings.

dubious - adj. of questionable value or reliability.

enamour - v. be filled with love or admiration for.

garner - v. gather or collect.

hoard - v. amass and hide or store away.

loiter - v. stand around or move without apparent purpose.

lucrative - adj. producing a great deal of profit.

lurk - v. remain hidden so as to wait in ambush.

menacing - adj. threatening.

paragon - n. a person or thing regarded as a model of excellence or of a particular quality.

parch - v. make or become dry through intense heat.

pedestal - n. the base or support on which a statue, obelisk, or column is mounted.

perilous - adj. full of or exposed to danger or risk.

pinnacle - n. the most successful point.

refute - v. deny (a statement or accusation).

remnant - n. a small remaining part, quantity, or trace.

remuneration - n. payment for services rendered or work done.

residue - n. a small amount of something that remains after the main part has been used.

scorch - v. become burnt

scour - v. subject to a thorough search.

shrivel - v. wrinkle and contract.

swagger - v. walk or behave arrogantly or self-importantly.

Challenge 72

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Whenever you plan to do something, you must always consider the _____ of your action.
(1) significance [✓ (2) consequences] انجام (3) conclusion (4) side effect

2. Cassie is a _____ girl who's out to get your money by winning over your sympathy.
(1) ingenious (2) calculative [✓ (3) cunning] چالاک (4) guileless

3. It's best for young Jimmy to stay away from the group, as he is _____ to their anti-social behavior.
[✓ (1) susceptible] (2) vulnerable (3) predisposed (4) liable

4. Because of his _____ nature, you'll never predict what he might do the next minute.
(1) volatile (2) unstable (3) volcanic [✓ (4) spontaneous] بلا ارادہ

5. My religion requires me to fast and pray daily as acts of _____ for the season of Lent.
(1) forgiveness (2) retention [✓ (3) repentance] ندامت (4) atonement

6. The scent of her perfume _____ in the room even though she has already left for the day.
(1) diffused [✓ (2) lingered] (3) dawdled (4) persisted

7. The thoughts and feelings of women will always be an _____ to men, as males cannot fathom the opposite sex well.
(1) enmity (2) antagonism [✓ (3) enigma] پہیلی (4) ambiguity

8. He likes to call his wife 'darling' as a term of _____ to her.
(1) entanglement (2) estrangement (3) engagement [✓ (4) endearment]

9. Grandma _____ on little Matthew a lot, catering to his every whim and fancy.
(1) idolise [✓ (2) dotes] (3) indulges (4) adores

10. Dad told Mum not to _____ Greg with too much affection as he is already a teenager and needs his own space.
(1) inundate [✓ (2) smother] گلا گھونٹنا - سانس کا رکنا (3) shroud (4) snuff

1. The _____ London sky doesn't bode well with my parents who are used to seeing more of the tropical sun and blue sky.
(1) lacklustre (2) uninspired [✓ (3) drab] (4) harsh

. The naughty kids _____ one another with hoses and water-guns, making the floor all wet and slippery.
(1) splashed [✓ (2) doused] (3) submerged (4) saturated

VOCAB quick CHECK

ambiguity - n. open to more than one interpretation.
antagonism - n. active hostility or opposition.
atonement - n. reparation for a wrong or injury. کفارہ
bode - v. be a portent of a good or bad outcome.
dawdle - v. move slowly and idly.
diffuse - v. spread out over a large area; not concentrated.
douse - v. drench with liquid.
drab - adj. drearily dull.
enigma - n. a mysterious or puzzling person or thing.
guileless - adj. innocent and without deception.
endearment - n. an affectionate or loving word or phrase.
entanglement - n. complicated circumstances.
estrangement - n. alienation.
indulge - v. allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of.
inundate - v. flood (a place).
lacklustre - adj. lacking in vitality, force, or conviction.
liable - adj. responsible by law; legally answerable.
linger - v. be slow or reluctant to leave.
predisposed - adj. make liable or inclined to a specified attitude, action, or condition.
retention - n. the act of keeping possession.
saturate - v. soak thoroughly with water or other liquid.
significance - n. the unstated meaning to be found in words or events.
shroud - v. cover or envelop so as to conceal from view.
smother - v. cause to feel trapped and oppressed.
snuff - v. abruptly put an end to.
spontaneous - adj. open, natural, and uninhibited.
susceptible - adj. likely to be influenced.
volatile - adj. liable to change rapidly and unpredictably.

Challenge 73

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The inspector pursued the most wanted man with a _____ mind-set and plenty of grit.
(1) dogged (2) indifferent [✓ (3) obstinate] ضدی - سرکشی (4) irresolute

2. The servant wished she could free herself from a life of _____ and misery so that she could lead the life she wanted.
(1) slavery (2) bore [✓ (3) drudgery] غلامانہ کام - محنت - مشقت (4) tediousness

3. This shop is kept under constant and close _____ because of recent cases of shoplifting in the area.
[✓ (1) surveillance] (2) sentry (3) sentinel (4) shutter

4. The speech therapist helps Jonnie to _____ his words properly, so that his speech deficiency due to his cleft lip can be overcomed.
(1) vocalise [✓ (2) enunciate] بیان کرنا - اظہار کرنا (3) proclaim (4) spell

5. The bandits _____ the village and left the villagers with nothing to eat and drink.
(1) vandalised (2) overturned [✓ (3) pillaged] لوٹ مار کرنا لوٹنا (4) ransacked

6. Senator John Kerry failed to unseat the _____, President George W. Bush in the election.
[✓ (1) incumbent] عہدہ (2) candidate (3) applicant (4) contender

7. Stacy looked _____ and out of sorts when she came to work this morning, raising concern among her colleagues.
(1) prim (2) exclusive [✓ (3) disconcerted] پریشان - بدحواس - اضطرار (4) inadequate

8. This piece of art will _____ the passage of time and be part of our history.
[✓ (1) endure] (2) persist (3) resist (4) defy

9. The labourer was paid a/an _____ which was not enough to sustain his family's needs.
(1) crumbs (2) allowance [✓ (3) pittance] قلیل رقم (4) wages

10. It is not uncommon for companies to engage in industrial _____ in order to gain an advantage over their competitors.
(1) reconnaissance (2) espionage (3) surveillance (4) betrayal

11. The rude student was punished with detention in front of the class for using _____ at her teacher.
[✓ (1) expletives] (2) superlatives (3) directives (4) comparatives

12. The monster in your closet is only a _____ of your imagination!
(1) creation (2) fabrication (3) fragment [✓ (4) figment] خیالی

VOCAB quick CHECK

comparative - adj. expressing a higher degree of a quality, but not the highest possible
contender - n. a person who engages in a struggle or campaign to achieve.
directive - n. an official or authoritative instruction.
dogged - adj. tenacious; grimly persistent.
drudgery - n. hard, menial, or dull work.
enunciate - v. hard, menial, or dull work.
espionage - n. the practice of spying or of using spies.
expletive - n. a word or phrase used to fill out a sentence or a line of verse without adding to the sense.
fabrication - n. invention.
figment - n. a thing believed to be real but existing only in the imagination.
incumbent - n. the holder of an office or post.
indifferent - adj. having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned.
irresolute - adj. hesitant; uncertain.
pillage - v. rob or steal with violence, especially in wartime.
pittance - n. a very small or inadequate amount of money.
proclaim - v. announce officially or publicly.
reconnaissance - n. preliminary surveying or research.
sentry - n. a soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place
sentinel - n. a soldier or guard whose job is to stand and keep watch.
superlative - adj. xpressing the highest or a very high degree of a quality
surveillance - n. close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal.
treacherous - adj. guilty of or involving betrayal or deception.
vocalise - v. express in words.

Challenge 74

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. He is such a humble and _____ young man who doesn't like to talk about his wealth.
(1) unpretentious (2) pretentious (3) ostentatious (4) harmless
عاجزانہ - غیر نمائشی

2. The host was _____ by the young lady's sudden unruly behaviour at the grand dinner.
(1) enlivened (2) amused (3) flabbergasted (4) displeased
حیران کرنا

3. After discovering her father's secret criminal involvement in human smuggling, Liz's respect for him was _____
(1) plummeted (2) sapped (3) undermined (4) depleted
کم ہونا

4. Your rudeness and resentment towards Gloria is totally _____, for she has done nothing to deserve such treatment from you.
(1) understandable (2) unwarranted (3) desirable (4) explicable

5. The soldier received a Medal of Honour for his _____ on the battlefield.
(1) bravado (2) valour (3) fearlessness (4) spirit
بہادری، بے خوفی

6. Lester got into a _____ when he lost a huge sum of his client's money by investing illegally in shares.
(1) problem (2) situation (3) fix (4) predicament
[illegible] حالات

7. To little John, George is a giant who _____ above him, but protects him at the same time.
(1) hovers (2) magnifies (3) towers (4) heightens

Grandpa wishes to leave his antique watch to the _____ of our family as it is an heirloom to us.
(1) generations (2) posterity (3) successors (4) children
آنے والی نسل

We have to work through our plan and see to its _____ before we think about reaping the profits.
(1) concatenation (2) fruition (3) progression (4) evolution
بارآوری

0. Ron has lost so much weight after the operation that he looks very _____ now.
(1) sturdy (2) obese (3) gaunt (4) steadfast
دبلا پتلا - لاغر - سوکھا

. Poetry writing is a different _____ of writing from scriptwriting, requiring a more artistic approach.
(1) classification (2) genre (3) category (4) form
فن کی ترتیب اور مسائل

The price of this company's share _____ so much that investors have no idea when to let go of the stocks.
(1) escalates (2) oscillates (3) fluctuates (4) moves
[illegible]

VOCAB quick CHECK

bravado - n. boldness intended to impress or intimidate.
concatenation - n. in a chain or series.
deplete - v. reduce the number or quantity of.
enliven - v. make more entertaining or interesting.
evolution - n. gradual development.
explicable - adj. able to be explained or accounted for.
flabbergasted - adj. surprised greatly.
fluctuate - v. rise and fall irregularly in number or amount.
fruition - n. the realization or fulfilment of a plan or project.
gaunt - adj. lean and haggard, especially through illness, hunger, or age.
genre - n. a style or category of art or literature.
hover - v. remain in one place in the air.
oscillate - v. move or swing back and forth in a regular rhythm.
ostentatious - adj. characterised by pretentious or showy display.
plummet - v. decrease rapidly in value or amount.
posterity - n. all future generations.
predicament - n. a difficult situation.
pretentious - adj. attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed.
sap - v. gradually weaken (a person's strength or power).
steadfast - adj. resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.
undermine - v. make less powerful or effective.
unruly - adj. disorderly and disruptive.
unwarranted - adj. not justified or authorised.
valour - n. courage in the face of danger, especially in battle.

Challenge 75

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. His cheeks became more _____ when he took up the stringent diet programme.
(1) sultry (2) sunken (3) sullen (4) surly

2. Benny is a child _____ who started performing classical pieces on the piano when he was only five.
(1) prodigy (2) prodigal (3) genius (4) propensity

3. There is a saying that goes "_____ is the thief of time". So if you continue to sit on things, you'll never get them done.
(1) procrastination (2) delay (3) postponement (4) deferment
ٹال مٹول کرنا - التواء

4. After a hard day's work, I would usually just _____ around in my armchair and watch television.
(1) lounge (2) loll (3) laze (4) crouch
لیٹ رہنا - آرام کرنا - بیٹھے رہنا

5. The dark clouds _____ menacingly over the mountains where the children were playing.
(1) drifted (2) thrusted (3) loomed (4) glided
خوفناک نظر آنا - دور سے دھندلا نظر آنا

6. The music seminar _____ my passion; I have not felt so inspired before.
(1) rekindled (2) ignited (3) resisted (4) awakened
دوبارہ جلانا - دوبارہ سلگانا - دوبارہ روشن کرنا

7. Whenever mother worries, her brows will _____ into a frown, making her seem older than she really is.
(1) grate (2) knit (3) weave (4) scrunch

8. Please speak in plain English because I don't understand all that technical _____ you just spouted.
(1) jargon (2) language (3) lingo (4) vernacular
کسی پیشے کی خاص اصطلاحات

9. The troops appear _____ despite marching for twelve hours without rest, as they are able to draw on their leader's inner strength.
(1) relentless (2) indefatigable (3) fatigued (4) persistent
نا تھکنے والا - انتھک

10. Due to his gambling addiction, he has _____ a huge debt that will take years to repay.
(1) incurred (2) acquired (3) amassed (4) accumulated
اپنے ذمے لے لینا - ذمہ داری قبول کرنا

11. Gina is waiting for a good time to ask her employer for a salary _____ based on her work achievements.
(1) adjustment (2) alteration (3) increment (4) rectification
تنخواہ وغیرہ میں اضافہ

12. Our city saw a huge _____ of foreign talent into the increasingly crowded labour market, thus creating unforeseen social problems.
(1) inflow (2) immigration (3) outflow (4) influx
ہجوم - سیلاب - زیادتی

VOCAB quick CHECK

amass - v. accumulate over time.
crouch - v. adopt a position where the knees are bent and the upper body is brought forward and down.
deferment - n. postponement.
grate - v. make an unpleasant rasping sound.
ignite - v. provoke or inflame.
incur - v. become subject to (something unwelcome or unpleasant) as a result of one's actions.
indefatigable - adj. persisting tirelessly.
influx - n. an arrival or entry of large numbers of people.
jargon - n. expressions used by a particular profession or group that are difficult for others to understand.
lingo - n. a foreign language.
loll - v. sit, lie, or stand in a lazy, relaxed way.
loom - v. appear as a vague form.
lounge - v. recline or stand in a relaxed or lazy way.
procrastination - n. postponement.
prodigal - adj. wastefully extravagant.
prodigy - n. a person, especially a young one, with exceptional abilities.
propensity - n. an inclination or tendency.
rekindle - v. revive (something lapsed or lost).
relentless - adj. oppressively constant.
scrunch - v. crush or squeeze into a compact mass.
sullen - adj. bad-tempered and sulky.
sultry - adj. (of a woman) displaying or suggesting a strongly sexual nature.
sunken - adj. of a person's eyes or cheek deeply recessed.
surly - adj. bad-tempered and unfriendly.
thrust - v. push suddenly or violently in a specific direction.
vernacular - n. the language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people of a country or region.

Challenge 76

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The journalist has _____ experience in news reporting, having been in the industry for more than ten years.
   (1) exemplary (2) extreme (3) expansive (4) excessive

2. She tried to discourage Peter from being too _____ but he did not seem to think that his opinions might be wrong at times.
   (1) dogmatic (2) dictatorial (3) stiff (4) unbending

3. The waitress dispensed the beer carefully to avoid stirring up the _____ and making a mess of the table.
   (1) remnants (2) dregs (3) remains (4) residue

4. The team won the game by _____ because the other team didn't turn up.
   (1) impartiality (2) default (3) fairness (4) equitableness

5. I find the doctor a tad _____ because of his intelligence and arrogance.
   (1) disturbing (2) creepy (3) daunting (4) disgusting

6. The kids have been looking forward to this trip; we shouldn't _____ their spirits.
   (1) douse (2) crush (3) crumple (4) dampen

7. The high priestess is much respected by the villagers as she can _____ the future with great accuracy.
   (1) decipher (2) comprehend (3) perceive (4) foretell

8. Get an expert's advice before undertaking the business, and don't be _____ enough to pump in all your savings in this venture.
   (1) foolish (2) careless (3) foolhardy (4) irresponsible

   بے وقوف - جیالا - احمق

9. The police found a _____ body near the swamp and they are still searching for the head.
   (1) dislocated (2) disarmed (3) decapitated (4) displaced

   سر قلم کیا ہوا - سر تن سے جدا

10. The Emperor enjoyed walking through the villages _____ and experiencing life as a commoner.
    (1) concealed (2) hidden (3) incognito (4) veiled

    خفیہ طور پر - چھپ کے

11. The boys are thinking of ways to _____ greater team spirit and togetherness so that they'll have a sense of unity when competing with the opposite team.
    (1) accumulate (2) gather (3) foster (4) harbour

    [illegible]

12. This organisation is a watchdog body that prevents _____ advertisements from misleading consumers.
    (1) honest (2) swindling (3) lying (4) fraudulent

    [illegible]

VOCAB quick CHECK

daunting - adj. intimidated or apprehensive.
decapitate - v. cut off the head of.
decipher - v. convert from code into normal language.
default - n. failure to fulfil an obligation.
dictatorial - adj. showing an autocratic manner.
dogmatic - adj. inclined to assert principles or opinions as incontrovertibly true.
douse - v. drench with liquid.
dreg - n. remnants of a liquid left in a container, together with any sediment.
equitableness - n. impartiality.
exemplary - adj. serving as a desirable model.
expansive - adj. covering a wide area; extensive.
foolhardy - adj. recklessly bold or rash.
foster - v. promote the development of.
fraudulent - adj. deceitful or dishonest.
impartiality - n. treating all rivals or disputants equally.
incognito - adv. having one's true identity concealed.
remnant - n. a small remaining part, quantity, or trace.
tad - adv. to a minor extent; somewhat.
undertake - v. commit oneself to and begin (an enterprise or responsibility).
venture - n. a risky or daring journey or undertaking.
watchdog - n. a person or group that monitors the practices of companies providing a particular service or utility.

Challenge 77

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. The blackmailer tried to extort _____ money from the politician by threatening to reveal his extra-marital affair to the media.
   (1) extort (2) intimidate (3) terrorise (4) pressurise

   (adj) Exotic (strange) - [illegible]

2. Let's go to some place _____ for our holidays. I need to get away from city life for a while.
   (1) metropolitan (2) cosmopolitan (3) urban (4) exotic

3. You need to curb _____ your excessive spending now that you have a family to support. [illegible]
   (1) curb (2) cap (3) halt (4) eclipse

   expenditure

4. How can you save when your _____ is more than what you earn?
   (1) expenditure (2) income (3) investment (4) payments

   invincible

5. The comic character Batman seems virtually _____ to children, but to adults we know that such a superhero does not exist.
   (1) invincible (2) supreme (3) untouchable (4)insurmountable

   [illegible] knave

6. He is an infamous conman and _____. Don't fall for his dirty tricks.
   (1) brat (2) bandit (3) knave (4) creep

7. It'll be easier for you to compare if you _____ the two items, so that you can view their distinctive features more closely.
   (1) juxtapose (2) differentiate (3) distinguish (4) discern

   [illegible]

8. Little Red Riding Hood skipped and sang in a _____ way on her way to visit her grandma.
   (1) pensive (2) jaunty (3) monotonous (4) momentous

   [illegible]

9. Thousands of people attended the memorial service to _____ the loss of thousands of innocent lives in the war.
   (1) whimper (2) weep (3) whine (4) lament

   [illegible]

10. In her dream, she got lost in a _____ of secret underground caves, but was rescued by a handsome Prince.
    (1) map (2) trap (3) labyrinth (4) puzzle

    [illegible]

11. This is a _____ problem which requires more time to solve, but this does not mean we should give up easily.
    (1) toilsome (2) knotty (3) straining (4) strenuous

    [illegible]

12. June wanted to protect her hand by wearing gloves, not realising that her fingers actually _____ from the holes in the gloves.
    (1) penetrated (2) appeared (3) materialised (4) protruded

    [illegible]

VOCAB quick CHECK

cosmopolitan - adj. familiar with or representative of many different countries and cultures.
curb - v. keep in check; control.
differentiate - v. recognize or identify as different, distinguish.
discern - v. recognize or find out.
eclipse - v. deprive of significance, power, or prominence.
insurmountable - adj. too great to be overcome.
jaunty - adj. having a lively and self-confident manner.
juxtapose - v. place close together.
knave - n. a dishonest or unscrupulous man.
labyrinth - n. a complicated irregular network of passages or paths.
lament - v. express regret or disappointment about.
materialise - v. become actual fact, happen.
metropolitan - adj. of a city, large and busy.
momentous - adj. of great importance or significance.
monotonous - adj. (of a sound, activity, or process) not interesting because of lack of change or variety.
pensive - adj. engaged in deep thought.
penetrate - v. go into or through, especially with force.
protrude - v. extend beyond or above a surface.
virtually - adv. nearly; almost.
whimper - v. make a series of low, feeble sounds expressive of fear, pain, or discontent.
whine - v. complain in a feeble or petulant way.

Challenge 78

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Lady Florence teaches her children to behave with _____ in social situations and not to embarrass themselves.
   [✓ (1) propriety] (2) grace (3) subtlety (4) intricacy
2. Hardly anyone knows Margie's _____ is Mary as she only uses it in all her written works.
   (1) name (2) forename [✓ (3) pseudonym] (4) surname
3. You can _____ any obstacles if you have the will to overcome them.
   (1) defeat (2) invade [✓ (3) surmount] (4) pervade
4. As Peter's hobby of collecting cars is very expensive, it could not be _____.
   (1) incurred [✓ (2) sustained] (3) prevailed (4) endured
5. Despite the recession, my café _____ because of strong support from regular customers and aggressive promotions.
   (1) nurtured (2) propagated [✓ (3) thrived] (4) bloomed
6. This substance is so _____ and should be kept out of children's reach.
   (1) harmless (2) addictive [✓ (3) toxic] (4) habituated
7. Can I have a _____ of my academic results as I need to show it to prospective employers during interviews?
   [✓ (1) transcription] (2) receipt (3) sketch (4) printout
8. My father needs to _____ to work everyday via the bus and the MRT, taking up to one and a half hours just on travelling time.
   [✓ (1) commute] (2) deviate (3) swap (4) switch
9. After the earthquake, I could still feel a slight _____ in the ground, but the engineers reassured us that the building is safe.
   (1) twitter [✓ (2) tremor] (3) quaver (4) wobble
10. Some authors who write about business management as if they are _____ actually know very little on the subject.
    [✓ (1) pundits] (2) academics (3) teachers (4) bandits
11. Her success in the school play inspired her to take up a _____ career, but she did not foresee the capriciousness of the entertainment industry.
    (1) melodramatic (2) dramatic [✓ (3) theatrical] (4) artistic
12. You cannot just expect to convince the audience with _____ assumptions without practical evidence to support them.
    (1) absurd [✓ (2) theoretical] (3) invalid (4) frivolous

deviate - v. diverge from an established course or from usual or accepted standards.
forename - n. another term for first name.
frivolous - adj. not having any serious purpose or value.
habituated - adj. accustomed to something.
intricacy - n. the quality of being detailed.
jeopardise - v. put at risk of loss, harm, or failure.
melodramatic - adj. exaggerated or overemotional.
pervade - v. spread or be present throughout; suffuse.
prevail - v. prove more powerful or superior.
propagate - v. cause to increase in number or amount.
propriety - n. correctness concerning standards of behaviour or morals.
prospective - adj. expected or likely to happen or be in the future.
pseudonym - n. a fictitious name, especially one used by an author.
pundit - n. an expert in a particular subject who is frequently called upon to give their opinions to the public.
quaver - n. a tremble in a voice.
subtlety - n. the complex and understated.
surmount - v. overcome (a difficulty or obstacle).
sustain - v. keep (something) going over time or continuously.
thrive - v. prosper; flourish.
transcription - n. a written or printed version of material originally presented in another medium.
twitter - n. trivial talk.

Challenge 79

VOCAB quick CHECK

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. Despite having to juggle between work and family life, Mrs Brown's _____ remains unruffled.
   [✓ (1) steadfastness] (2) piety (3) faithfulness (4) devoutness
2. There is no way in which Teresa could have _____ the report as she is always meticulous in her work.
   (1) anticipated (2) instigated [✓ (3) misconstrued] (4) accentuated
3. The group was disappointed with Mr Fox's _____ refusal to join in the protest as they had expected him to be brave enough to stand up for the cause.
   (1) spiritless [✓ (2) gutless] (3) daring (4) audacious
4. The butler was told not to be _____ in carrying out orders, but to be quick in his actions.
   (1) nimble [✓ (2) laggard] (3) lackadaisical (4) enthusiastic
5. The attorney tried to _____ to the judge in an attempt to plead for a lighter sentence on behalf of his client.
   (1) enlighten (2) explain [✓ (3) extenuate] (4) exhilarate
6. I find this talk show to be _____ and full of nonsense. I rather go to bed early.
   (1) inopportune (2) underrated [✓ (3) inane] (4) unwarranted
7. The _____ widow continued to weep for her dead husband, despite the condolences she received from relatives and friends.
   (1) melancholic [✓ (2) bereaved] (3) aggrieved (4) affected
8. The toy robot was made to _____ sadness by letting out a wailing sound whenever its head was screwed three times.
   (1) stimulate (2) emulate [✓ (3) simulate] (4) fabricate
9. In a ploy to capture the head of the syndicate, Inspector Tan disguised himself as an old man and became a _____ to lure him out.
   [✓ (1) decoy] (2) informant (3) spy (4) traitor
10. What's that _____ smell from the kitchen? It's as if a rat has died in there!
    [✓ (1) rancid] (2) pungent (3) intense (4) stimulating
11. The boss called Han to ask if he managed to _____ the amount of goods from the supplier as agreed upon.
    [✓ (1) procure] (2) secure (3) purchase (4) plunder
12. Annie was drinking excessively at the party so I'm not surprised that she was heavily _____ afterwards.
    (1) instigated [✓ (2) intoxicated] (3) sober (4) exhilarated

accentuate - v. make more noticeable or prominent.
aggrieved - adj. resentful because of unfair treatment.
audacious - adj. lacking respect; impudent.
bereaved - adj. deprived of a close relation or friend through their death.
decoy - n. a person or thing used to mislead or lure someone into a trap.
devoutness - n. deep religious feeling or commitment.
emulate - v. attempt to match or surpass, typically by imitation.
extenuate - v. lessen the seriousness of (guilt or an offence) by reference to a mitigating factor.
fabricate - v. invent in order to deceive.
gutless - adj. lacking courage or determination.
exhilarate - v. make very happy or animated.
inane - adj. lacking sense or meaning; silly.
inopportune - adj. occurring at an inconvenient time.
instigate - v. incite someone to do something.
intoxicate - v. (of alcoholic drink or a drug) cause (someone) to lose control of their faculties.
lackadaisical - adj. lacking enthusiasm and thoroughness.
laggard - adj. slower than desired or expected.
melancholic - adj. being sad for a long time.
meticulous - adj. very careful and precise.
misconstrue - v. interpret wrongly.
procure - v. obtain.
rancid - adj. of foods smelling or tasting unpleasant as a result of being stale.
simulate - v. imitate or reproduce the appearance, character, or conditions of.
steadfast - adj. resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.
unwarranted - adj. not justified or authorised.

Challenge 80

Choose the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. He does not give me the impression of being a very voluble man as he is always speaking in a _____ manner.
   (1) tense (2) formal [✓ (3) terse] (4) fluent
2. Trainee pilots are often put through a _____ of a terrorist attack during their training.
   (1) stimulation (2) simulation (3) pretence (4) ploy
3. The scout was sent out to _____ the surrounding area for enemy encampments, but nobody would have thought that he would be captured by the enemy instead.
   (1) examine (2) explore (3) probe [✓ (4) scrutinise]
4. The insults he made about her appearance were rather _____; her feelings were badly hurt as a result
   [✓ (1) derogatory] (2) despondent (3) despairing (4) detrimental
5. Your remarks were most _____ and relevant to the discussion, and we would take note of that in our business plans.
   (1) intuitive [✓ (2) insightful] (3) significant (4) inconsequential
6. The panel was not impressed by the convict's _____ replies. They thought he felt no remorse and had no intention to change for the better.
   [✓ (1) noncommittal] (2) superficial (3) deliberate (4) careless
7. Although the two problems occur in different time periods, they are _____ and thus can be solved with a common solution.
   (1) identical (2) indifferent (3) opposing [✓ (4) analogous]
8. Baking brownies is my _____. You will never taste brownies as good as mine!
   [✓ (1) forte] (2) flair (3) finale (4) fantasy
9. There was complete _____ at the zoo when a tiger escaped from the cage.
   [✓ (1) pandemonium] (2) pantomime (3) pandemic (4) panic
10. We chanced upon a _____ little cottage on the hill, and we fell in love with its old English style decoration immediately.
   (1) dilapidated (2) fashionable [✓ (3) quaint] (4) quirky
1. The villagers look upon the priest with great _____. He has much authority over them.
   [✓ (1) reverence] (2) wisdom (3) idolation (4) imagery
. The old lady could not remember how the con man looked like because of his _____ features; he could have been any ordinary guy on the street.
   (1) typical (2) exceptional (3) outstanding (4) distinctive

VOCAB quick CHECK

analogous - adj. comparable in certain respects.

derogatory - adj. showing a critical or disrespectful attitude

despondent - adj. in low spirits from loss of hope or courage

detrimental - adj. tending to cause harm.

dilapidated - adj. (of a building or object) in a state of disrepair or ruin as a result of age or neglect.

finale - n. the last part of a piece of music, an entertainment, or a public event.

flair - n. a natural ability or talent.

forte - n. a thing at which someone excels.

idolatry - n. worship of idols

inconsequential - adj. not important or significant.

indifferent - adj. having no particular interest or sympathy, unconcerned.

noncommittal - adj. not displaying commitment to a definite opinion or policy.

pandemic - n. the outbreak of a disease that is prevalent over a whole country or large part of the world.

pandemonium - n. wild and noisy disorder or confusion; uproar.

pantomime - n. a theatrical entertainment involving music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy.

ploy - n. a cunning plan or action designed to turn a situation to one's own advantage.

quaint - adj. attractively unusual or old-fashioned.

quirky - adj. characterized by peculiar or unexpected traits or aspects.

reverence - n. deep respect.

scrutinise - v. inspect closely and thoroughly.

simulation - n. imitation of the appearance, character, or conditions of something.

terse - adj. sparing in the use of words, abrupt.

Ingeneous Ingenuous

Challenge 1

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The (ingenuous, ingenious) girl is often cheated by others who take advantage of her naivety. کمال کی سادہ لڑکی بار بھولی
2. The ([✓ demographical], dermatological) statistics show the proportion of people in their twenties who are working.
3. The two men decided to settle their differences with a (dual, [✓ duel]) once and for all. combat btw two n دو دشمنوں کا مقابلہ
4. The American government decided to put a/an (cargo, embargo) on oil imported from Iraq when hostilities broke out between the two countries.
5. The rotten egg smells absolutely ([✓ foul], fowl) and has to be thrown away at once. سڑا - بدبو مرغی جو کھایا جائے
6. When I take a shower, I like to pour liquid soap onto a sponge to work up a (latter, [✓ lather]). پانی میں بلبلے بنانا
7. Many westerners view Asia as an (erotic, [✓ exotic]) and mysterious region with different ethnicities. اجنبی - انجان چیز
8. We always go to the skating ([✓ rink], ring, rind) in our free time because we like the feeling of moving on ice. آئس پانی سطح برف کی چھلکا - پھل و سبزی کا بیرونی سخت چھول
9. The actor played the part of the tyrannical King very well with his (renting, [✓ ranting]) and raving. ظالم - جابر
10. I do not know why you like to spend so much money on buying these useless (babbles, bubbles, [✓ baubles]) and trinkets. بلبلہ کم قیمتی زیورات
11. The husband of the victim is a prime suspect as he does not have an ([✓ alibi], alias) at the time of the murder.
12. The ([✓ stature], statue) and reputation of this scientist is renowned throughout the world. بادشاہانہ
13. I do not like his arrogant and (imperial, [✓ imperious]) manner when he talks to people. بادشاہی
14. This black puppy is the runt of the (little, [✓ litter]), but it caught my attention at once. کباڑی
15. His ([✓ hesitancy], hesitation) revealed to us that he was reluctant to accept responsibilities of any kind.

VOCAB quick CHECK

alias - n. a false or assumed identity.

alibi - n. a claim or piece of evidence that one was elsewhere when an alleged act took place.

babble - v. talk rapidly and continuously in a foolish, excited, or incomprehensible way.

bauble - n. a small, showy trinket or decoration.

demography - n. study of the structure of human populations using statistics relating to births, deaths, wealth, disease, etc.

dermatology - n. branch of medicine concerned with skin disorders.

embargo - n. an official ban, especially on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country

fowl - n. a domesticated bird derived from a junglefowl and kept for its eggs or flesh.

hesitancy - n. slow to act or speak through indecision or reluctance

imperial - adj. relating to an empire or an emperor.

imperious - adj. arrogant and domineering.

ingenious - adj. clever, original, and inventive.

ingenuous - adj. innocent and unsuspecting.

rant - v. speak or shout at length in a wild, impassioned way.

renowned - adj. famous.

rind - n. a tough outer layer or covering, especially of fruit, cheese, or bacon.

runt - n. a small pig or other animal, especially the smallest in a litter.

stature - n. importance or reputation gained by ability or achievement

Challenge 2

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The clinical (trials, trails) have proven the effectiveness of this medicine and it will be sold in the market in no time.
2. Mr Ang realised that he had been made a (cuckoo, cuckold) when he discovered photographs of his wife behaving intimately with another man.
3. The callous husband is going to (dessert, desert) his wife and three children in the next episode.
4. It is very difficult to break their (clique, cliché) up as they have been friends for a very long time.
5. I know the (barrister, bartender) who works at this café as he is a friend of mine.
6. The hay for the horse is put in the (manager, manger) so that it can be eaten by the animal when it is hungry.
7. Your methods of teaching are irregular and (orthodox, unorthodox), but they seem to be effective.
8. The (moral, morale) of the soldiers is quite low as they have not had enough sleep and food for weeks.
9. This sculpture is (aesthetically, ascetically) pleasing as the sculptor has captured the flowing lines of the subject very well.

0 I did not manage to (brooch, broach) the subject to my parents of my intention to go overseas for studies.

. I am going to (append, amend) this novel by adding two more chapters at the end of the book.

The professor sat (poring, pouring) over the manuscript at the library's archival section, trying to decipher what was written on it.

When everybody left the party complaining it was boring, the hostess vas left to (fuse, fume) alone.

he outlandish woman went to the cocktail party wearing a hat with a rge (plumb, plume, plump).

e (elicit, illicit) sale of pirated VCDs was soon put to an end after the lice raided the warehouse.

VOCAB quick CHECK

append - v. add to the end of a document.

aesthetic - adj. concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.

ascetical - adj. characterized by the practice of severe self-discipline.

barrister - n. a person called to the bar and entitled to practise as an advocate, particularly in the higher courts.

broach - v. raise (a sensitive subject) for discussion.

cliche - n. a phrase or opinion that is overused and shows a lack of original thought.

clique - n. a small close-knit group of people who do not readily allow others to join them.

cuckold - n. the husband of an adulteress regarded as an object of derision.

elicit - v. evoke or draw out (a response or answer).

illicit - adj. forbidden by law, rules, or custom.

manger - n. a long trough for feeding horses or cattle.

manuscript - n. a handwritten book, document, or piece of music.

orthodox - adj. conforming with traditional or generally accepted beliefs.

outlandish - adj. bizarre or unfamiliar.

plumb - n. a heavy object attached to a line for finding the depth of water or determining the vertical on an upright surface.

plume - n. arrangement of feathers used by a bird for display, or worn on a hat or helmet as decoration.

trial - n. a test of performance, qualities, or suitability.

Challenge 3

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The critics (panned, penned) the director's latest movie for its poor plot and acting.
2. The company accountant will be looking through the (lager, ledger) to make sure that there are no discrepancies in our accounts.
3. His eloquent argument (floored, flooded) his opponents and won him the "Best Speaker Award" at the inter-varsity debate competition.
4. Our manager has been demoted and (delegated, relegated) to administrative duties due to his poor work performance.
5. The (countess, countless), renowned for her wit and beauty, was sought after by numerous suitors.
6. The firm offers (remittent, remittance) services so that foreign workers can send money to their families back home.
7. Please do not (dabble, dapple) in the supernatural as you could end up in more trouble than you could ever imagine.
8. The smoke from the fire (envelopes, envelops) the whole city, shrouding it for days.
9. Her verbal abuse at me did not (abase, abate) even after I had complained to the teacher.
10. Although we know it is not right, we still often make the dull and (droll, drool) Jonathan the butt of our jokes.
11. He is an (extrovert, introvert) who likes to keep to himself and lives in his own world.
12. The police (squad, squab) will be here soon, so you had better surrender yourself.
13. The quarrel between the neighbours has become so sour that they needed another neighbour to (mediate, meditate) between them.
14. The (principle, principal) language in China is Mandarin, but even within the country, the Mandarin spoken varies from city to city.
15. The manuscript has to be (amended, emended) before it can be sent for publishing.

VOCAB quick CHECK

abase - v. behave in a way that belittles or degrades (someone).

abate - v. become less intense or widespread.

countess - n. wife or widow of a count or earl.

dabble - v. take part in an activity in a casual or superficial way.

dapple - v. mark with spots or rounded patches.

delegate - v. entrust (a task or responsibility) to another person.

discrepancy - n. an illogical or surprising lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.

droll - adj. amusing in a strange or quaint way.

drool - n. saliva falling from the mouth.

emend - v. correct and revise (a text).

envelop - v. wrap up, cover, or surround completely.

floor - v. baffle or confound completely.

lager - n. an effervescent beer, light in colour and body.

ledger - n. a book or other collection of financial accounts.

pan - v. criticise severely.

pen - v. write or compose.

principal - adj. first in order of importance, main.

relegate - v. assign an inferior rank or position to.

remittance - n. sending (money) in payment, especially by post.

remittent - adj. (of a fever) characterized by fluctuating body temperatures.

squab - n. a young unfledged pigeon.

squad - n. a small number of soldiers assembled for drill or assigned to a particular task.

5

Challenge 4

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Mr Chua is going away for a short (sojourn, adjourn) to get over his failed marriage.
2. I do not like (acetated, aerated) drinks as I find them too gassy and unhealthy for consumption.
3. After several months of consideration, Marianne made a (juridical, judicious) decision not to marry the flirtatious man. قانونی
4. The scientific study of solar systems falls under the discipline of (Astrology, Astronomy).
5. The (precious, precocious, precarious) child learnt how to read when she was only two years of age.
6. The (brigade, brigand) often plundered solitary travellers in the woods, so it is advisable not to wonder off alone.
7. Please remain (stationary, stationery) during the photo shoot and do not fidget unnecessarily. ساکن
8. The (infamous, famous) murderer is due to hang today and lots of people have turned up to witness the execution.
9. The widespread (dispersal, dispersion) of the seeds has resulted in new shoots sprouting up all over the field.
10. The cruel man picked up the puppy by the (scruff, scuff) of its neck and dangled it in mid-air.
11. The extra bonus is a (boom, boon) for the workers and will hopefully motivate them to work harder next year.
12. The ironmonger has a lot of (callous, calluses) on his hands due to the rough nature of his work.
13. The chef used a chopper to (cleat, cleave) the slab of mutton into two before placing it into the frying pan.
4. Although we were on our toes this time, the (wily, willy) old fraud still managed to trick us all again!
5. The turkey was (trusted, trussed) up with a string to prevent any stuffing from falling out during baking.

Callous : Cruel.

VOCAB quick CHECK

acetate - n. textile fibre or plastic made of cellulose acetate.

adjourn - v. break off (a meeting) with the intention of resuming it later.

aerate - v. introduce air into.

astrology - n. study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world.

astronomy - n. branch of science which deals with celestial objects, space, and the physical universe as a whole.

boon - n. a thing that is helpful or beneficial.

brigade - n. a subdivision of an army.

brigand - n. a member of a gang that robs people in forests.

callous - adj. insensitive and cruel.

callus - n. a thickened and hardened part of the skin or soft tissue.

cleat - n. a projecting wedge on a spar, tool, etc., to prevent slippage.

cleave - v. split or sever along a natural grain or line.

dispersal - n. a liquid or gas used to disperse small particles in a medium.

dispersion - n. the action of dispersing or the state of being dispersed.

infamous - adj. well known for some bad quality or deed.

judicious - adj. having or done with good judgement, sensible.

juridicial - adj. relating to judicial proceedings and the law.

precarious - adj. not securely held or in position; likely to fall.

precocious - adj. having developed certain abilities or inclinations at an earlier age than usual.

scruff - n. back of a person's or animal's neck.

scuff - n. a mark made by scuffing.

sojourn - n. a temporary stay.

truss - v. tie up the wings and legs of (a chicken or other bird) before cooking.

Challenge 5

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Girls used to practise their needlework and embroidery skills on (samples, samplers) which would then be displayed on the wall.
2. To ensure that your cake has a smooth texture, please (kneel, knead) the dough thoroughly before baking.
3. I cannot believe that you still have the (gall, gull) to defend yourself after all that has happened!
4. Everyone was worried and suspected that the dog might have choked on a bone when it started making (etching, retching) sounds.
5. It is rumoured that a ghost haunts that (copse, corpse) of trees and nobody dares to go near.
6. You need to draw up to five (gallons, galleons) of water before you can fill up this container.
7. There is nothing left in the paper cup except some (dredges, dregs), so you might as well throw it away.
8. Censorship will only (trample, trammel) the rights of people from freedom of speech.
9. This particular semi-precious stone is known as a (garret, garnet) and is worn for good luck.
10. The master gave his (discipline, disciple, disciplinarian) the precious manuscript before he passed away.
11. Everybody now despises the millionaire who has turned into a (pauper, patron) overnight.
12. I believe that God is (omnipotent, omnipresent) as he sees everything and is everywhere.
13. Gary's (discreet, discrete) behaviour was nothing surprising to us as he had always been a person of low profile in class.
14. The gang leader (eked, egged) the rebellious teenagers to commit the thefts to prove their adulthood.
15. Diana was too frightened to enter the (apiary, aviary) for fear of being stung by the thousands of bees that were buzzing around inside.

VOCAB quick CHECK

apiary - n. a place where bees are kept.

aviary - n. a large enclosure for keeping birds in.

copse - n. a small group of trees.

discreet - adj. careful and prudent, especially so as to avoid giving offence or attracting attention.

discrete - adj. individually separate and distinct.

dredge - n. an apparatus for bringing up objects or mud from a river or seabed by scooping or dragging.

dreg - n. remnants of a liquid left in a container, together with any sediment.

egg - v. urge or encourage someone to do something foolish or risky.

eke - v. manage to make a living with difficulty.

etching - n. clearly defined.

gall - n. bold and impudent behaviour.

galleon - n. a large sailing ship.

gallon - n. a unit of volume for liquid measure.

garnet - n. a precious stone.

garret - n. a top-floor or attic room.

omnipotent - adj. having unlimited or very great power.

omnipresent - adj. (of God) present everywhere at the same time.

retch - v. make the sound and movement of vomiting.

sampler - n. a piece of embroidery worked in various stitches as a specimen of skill.

trammel - v. constrain or impede.

trample - v. tread on and crush.

Challenge 6

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The (refugees, refuges) were smuggled into a truck and driven past the customs office without arousing suspicions from the authorities.
2. The (magnate, magnet) made his fortune by developing a special anti-virus software.
3. I am going to make a (college, collage) out of newspaper strips for my art assignment this week.
4. As he sat reminiscing about the past, he soon fell into a quiet (reverie, revelry). یاد کرنا
5. Kelly is a very shy and (demur, demure) girl who hardly has any friends.
6. The invigorating drink soon (simulated, stimulated) me and I was able to focus on my work again.
7. I am not (averse, adverse) to going to the party; on the contrary, I am looking forward to it. مخالف
8. "I can see that the Princess has finally (deign, reign) to honour us with her presence," my mother remarked sarcastically when my sister finally appeared to join us for dinner.

Please loosen your (gripe, grit, grip) on my wrist as it is extremely uncomfortable.

"I have a (query, quarry) to make about housing loans. Do I go to this counter?" Mr Lee asked the receptionist. سوال

You can be (ensured, assured, insured) that all your valuables will be safe with us.

I am surprised to find all sorts of animal (excrement, excrescence) in the pen as I had emptied it just two hours ago.

The child molester was such a (friend, fiend) that everybody threw rotten eggs at him the minute he stepped out from the court.

The (sassy, sashay) and stylish girl is extremely popular not only in her own school, but also in neighbouring schools.

The wool in this blanket can be used to (insolate, insulate) heat, thus keeping us warm on a chilly night.

VOCAB quick CHECK

adverse - adj. preventing success or development; unfavourable.

averse - adj. strongly disliking or opposed.

collage - n. a form of art in which various materials such as photographs and paper or fabric are arranged and stuck to a backing.

deign - v. do something that one considers to be beneath one's dignity.

demur - adj. raise doubts or objections; show reluctance.

demure - adj. (of a woman) reserved, modest, and shy.

excrescence - n. an abnormal outgrowth on a body or plant.

fiend - n. a very wicked or cruel person.

gripe - v. complain about something trivial.

grit - n. courage and determination.

insolation - n. amount of solar radiation reaching a given area.

magnate - n. a wealthy and influential businessman.

quarry - n. a large pit, from which stone or other materials may be extracted.

reign - v. rule as monarch.

reminisce - v. recollect a past event.

revelry - n. lively and noisy festivities.

reverie - n. a daydream.

sashay - v. walk ostentatiously, with exaggerated hip and shoulder movements.

sassy - adj. bold and spirited; cheeky.

simulate - v. imitate or reproduce the appearance, character, or conditions of.

Monastry ڈیرہ - خانقاہ

Challenge 7

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The farmers have to (thrash, thresh, thrush) the grain before it can be eaten.
2. He kept trying to (bombard, bombast) me with questions during the discussion to distract me from my presentation.
3. "Welcome to my humble (abbot, abode, adorn)," our host said as he opened the door to greet his guests. → Decorate (n)
4. You can (slouch, sough, slough) away dead skin on your feet with this pumice stone.
5. The (felons, talons) of the eagle can rake and kill a rabbit, by tearing the little animal to pieces.
6. Ships used to be rowed by slaves who would sit in the (galley, gallery) with a supervisor watching over them.
7. The unscrupulous man tried to (retract, retread) his promise that he would not mistreat his dog anymore.
8. Please (cease, crease) all conversation once the examination starts, otherwise you will have to leave this hall.
9. Alex could not contain his happiness and was (exulting, exuding) so much joy after he learnt that his proposal was accepted by his boss last night.
10. One should not be envious and (convent, covert, covet) what others have, but instead be thankful for what one has in life.
11. Joanne has a (congenial, congenital) heart disease and is excused from physical education programmes.
12. The little boy (gobbles, goggles) down his food hurriedly before leaving the house.
13. The amazing young acrobat was able to (concoct, contort) his body and fit himself into a small box.
14. A popular way of cooking beef patties is to (sear, seer) them on both sides with an outdoor grill.
15. Cartoonists often satirised politicians by drawing unflattering (cartoons, caricatures) of them that exaggerate their worst facial features.

VOCAB quick CHECK

abode - n. a house or home.

adorn - n. decorate.

bombard - v. subject to a continuous flow of questions or information.

bombast - n. high-sounding language with little meaning.

caricature - n. a depiction of a person in which distinguishing characteristics are exaggerated for comic or grotesque effect.

concoct - v. create or devise (a story or plan).

contort - v. twist or bend out of its normal shape.

congenial - adj. pleasant because of qualities or interests similar to one's own.

congenital - adj. (especially of a disease or abnormality) present from birth.

covert - adj. not openly acknowledged or displayed.

covet - v. yearn to possess (something belonging to someone else).

exude - v. display (an emotion or quality) strongly and openly.

exult - v. show or feel triumphant elation.

felon - n. a person who has committed a felony.

galley - n. a low, flat ship.

retract - v. withdraw (a statement or accusation) as untrue or unjustified.

retread - v. go back over (a path or one's steps).

satirise - v. deride and criticize by means of satire.

sear - v. brown (food) quickly at a high temperature.

seer - n. a person of supposed supernatural insight who sees visions of the future.

slough - v. cast off or shed (an old skin).

sough - v. (of the wind, sea, etc.) make a moaning, whistling, or rushing sound.

talon - n. a claw, especially one belonging to a bird of prey.

thresh - v. separate grain from (corn or other crops)

thrush - n. a small or medium-sized songbird

Challenge 8

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. I hope my candid account will (alley, allay, ally) your fears about my trustworthiness.
2. I like the romantic (ambience, ambient) that the soft flickering candles create.
3. I am going to (neuter, neutral) my dog so that we will not have to worry about it having puppies.
4. She speaks in a rasping (nascent, nasal) voice that is distinctive even on the telephone.
5. (Muscles, Mussels) are one of my favourite seafood and are also one of the toppings in spaghetti.
6. Some people practise (neurology, necromancy) by praying to the dead for wining lottery numbers.
7. Members of the association found the (annum, annual, annul) periodical that we published was informative and useful.
8. I can't walk any further as my new shoes (chaff, chafe) my soles, creating painful blisters on my feet.
9. The way that you are treating this kitten is not (human, humanitarian, humane) but barbaric.
10. I am charged with the task of (inflecting, inflating, infecting) all these three hundred balloons in two hours.
11. As we arrived late and the cinema was in pitch darkness, the (usher, usurper) showed us to our seats.
12. The poor children have to (savage, scavenge) in the rubbish dumps to look for things to sell.
13. The polar bear may look harmless, but when antagonised, the animal instinct which is (imminent, eminent, immanent) in it will attack whoever crosses its wrath.
14. The taxi company is going to impose (instrumental, incremental) charges for its night service so that the fare at different times of the night will be staggered accordingly.
15. The strong wind is going to (wreck, wreak) havoc on my newly-styled hair!

VOCAB quick CHECK

allay - v. diminish or end (fear or concern).
annul - v. declare a law or contract invalid.
ambient - adj. relating to the immediate surroundings of something
chafe - v. make or become sore by rubbing.
chaff - v. tease (someone)
eminent - adj. respected and distinguished within a particular sphere.
humanitarian - adj. concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.
immanent - adj. existing or operating within.
imminent - adj. about to happen.
incremental - adj. change by degrees.
inflect - v. vary the pitch of voice to express mood or feeling.
instrumental - adj. serving as a means of pursuing an aim.
nasal - adj. relating to the nose.
nascent - adj. beginning to display signs of future potential.
necromacy - n. practice of communicating with the dead.
neurology - n. branch of medicine and biology concerned with the nervous system.
neuter - v. castrate or spay (a domestic animal)
rasping - adj. of voice, harsh and grating.
savage - v. of a dog, attack ferociously.
scavenge - v. search for and collect (anything usable) from discarded waste.
usurp - v. take (a position of power) illegally or by force.
wreak - v. cause (a large amount of damage or harm).
wreck - v. destroy or severely damage

Challenge 9

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The widow showed her (metal, mettle, métier) as she brought up her children single-handedly.
2. The (garb, grab) of poor peasants is usually made with coarse cotton as they cannot afford clothings of a better material.
3. The staff decided to send a (wreath, wreathe) to the wake of their director's deceased mother to convey their condolences.
4. The castaways were (marooned, marshaled) on a deserted island in the Pacific Ocean and only managed to be rescued after two years.
5. He is a film (buff, bluff) who has watched at least a thousand movies.
6. The ERP charges will be automatically deducted from your cashcard when you go pass the electronic (gentry, gantry).
7. The (helpless, hapless) man could only bemoan his ill fortune when his business collapsed.
8. The Emperor of China used to send out instructions to his officials through imperial (edits, edicts).
9. The imposing (artifice, edifice) on the hilltop was built by native Americans who were the first inhabitants of the land.
10. The natural resources on this earth are (scarce, scare) and that is why we must try to preserve them.
11. The (fuel, feud) between the two families has lasted for centuries and the situation will not improve unless effort is made by both parties.
12. It was a tragic that the boy died of (pneumonia, pneumatic) after being caught in a storm one night.
13. An example of a (homonym, homophone, homograph) would be 'hot' as it can either mean a high temperature, or refer to something spicy.
14. A new telecommunications company has just opened under the (auspicious, auspices) of the government.
15. The laboratory test conducted by the Ministry of Health detected a (trace, trade) of mercury in the imported tuna; as a result the import permit was cancelled.

VOCAB quick CHECK

artifice - n. clever devices or expedients, especially to trick or deceive others.
auspice - n. an omen.
buff - n. a person who is interested in and very knowledgeable about a particular subject.
bluff - n. an attempt to deceive someone into believing that one can or will do something.
edict - n. an official order or proclamation.
edifice - n. a complex system of beliefs.
garb - n. clothing, especially of a particular kind.
gantry - n. a bridge-like overhead structure.
gentry - n. people of good social position, specifically the class next below the nobility.
hapless - adj. unlucky unfortunate.
homograph - n. each of two or more words spelled the same but having different meanings and origins.
homonym - n. each of two or more words having the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings and origins
homophone - n. each of two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling.
maroon - v. abandon (someone) alone in an inaccessible place, especially an island.
marshal - v. assemble (a group of people, especially soldiers) in order.
metier - n. a profession or occupation.
mettle - n. a person's ability to cope with difficulties; spirit and resilience.
pneumatic - adj. containing or operated by air or gas under pressure.
pneumonia - n. a lung infection.
wreath - n. an arrangement of flowers used for decoration on a grave.
wreathe - n. form (flowers, leaves, or stems) into a wreath.

Challenge 10

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The conquest of this fort is (paramount, paramour) to victory and will ensure the defeat of our enemies.
2. The (regale, regal) Queen sat calmly and solemnly on her throne as her subjects bowed before her.
3. Please draw a little star-shaped (asterisk, appendix) next to the items that you wish to order.
4. America's (import, export) deficit is very high as Americans purchase a lot of their goods from less developed countries such as China and India.
5. Jimmy plays the (persuasion, percussion) in the band but he hopes to be the conductor one day.
6. Shakespeare's works are considered an integral part of every literary (canon, cannon) and should not be dismissed as trivial.
7. The (genuine, genial) old lady is well-liked by all the children in the neighbourhood because she likes to give them little treats.
8. The (foaming, forming) rapids looked so intimidating as though they would swallow the flimsy raft in no time.
9. Can you please go to the (paltry, pantry) and get me a cup of coffee so that I can perk myself up?
10. Some people believe that pendants of (ruins, runes) worn on a chain can ward off evil.
11. I am extremely proud of my school (blazer, blazon) which is double-breasted and is of navy blue in colour.
12. It is advisable to (pare, par) the fruits before serving them to the guests for a more appealing look.
13. The nightingale let out a melodious (trill, thrill) that brought tears to the eyes of the old King.

4. Mr Heng is very worried about his retrenchment as he has several (dependents, dependants) to support.

. I bought some (trifles, trivia) at the knick knack shop for my relatives as Christmas presents.

VOCAB quick CHECK

appendix - n. a section of subsidiary matter at the end of a book.

asterisk - n. a symbol (*) used in text as a pointer to an annotation or footnote.

blazer - n. a coloured summer jacket worn as part of a uniform.

blazon - n. a correct description of armorial bearings.

canon - n. a list of literary works considered to be permanently established as being of the highest quality.

dependant - n. a person who relies on another, especially a family member, for financial support.

genial - adj. friendly and cheerful.

integral - adj. necessary to make a whole complete; fundamental.

paltry - adj. (of an amount) very small or meagre.

pantry - n. a small room or cupboard in which food, crockery, and cutlery are kept.

par - n. the usual or expected level or amount.

paramour - n. a lover.

paramount - adj. more important than anything else, supreme.

pare - v. trim by cutting away the outer edges of.

percussion - n. playing a musical instrument by striking or shaking it.

pendant - n. a piece of jewellery that hangs from a necklace chain.

regal - adj. resembling, or fit for a monarch, especially in being magnificent or dignified.

regale - v. lavishly supply with food or drink.

rune - n. a mysterious symbol, especially in a spell or incantation.

trifle - n. a cold dessert of sponge cake and fruit covered with layers of custard, jelly, and cream.

trill - n. a quavering or vibratory sound.

trivia - n. unimportant details or pieces of information.

Challenge 11

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. We have no choice but to make the (descend, descent) from the mountain as we have only one day of ration left.
2. "Don't (feint, feign) ignorance of this matter!" the angry man shouted at his business partner.
3. Please (relieve, relief) me for the next shift as I need to rush off now for an emergency.
4. To keep himself in a physically good condition, the (hail, hale) and hearty old man goes for a jog every morning.
5. This problem is very complicated and we have to look at all (respects, aspects) of it before we make our decision.
6. It was extremely (iconic, ironic) when the big bully in my class accused others of bullying him.
7. The more (facets, faucets) a diamond has, the better it reflects light.
8. Many young fans worship their idols and most think that these superstars are (infallible, indelible).
9. The actor angrily stated in his defense that his remark had been taken out of (content, context) by the media.
10. She gave a (shirk, shriek) when she realised that we had played a practical joke on her.
11. We were all very afraid of the big and (blurry, burly) man, except for Eric who befriended him without any reservations.
12. In the movie, the witches chanted an (innovation, invocation) while dancing around a cauldron.
13. Rebellious and (defiant, deviant) children who do not respect authority are usually very difficult to discipline.
14. Your honesty will put you in good (stead, stand) in front of your supervisor one day.
15. Being an (eligible, illegible) bachelor who leads an affluent lifestyle, Moore is sought after by a bevy of ladies who hope to win his heart.

VOCAB quick CHECK

bevy - n. a large group of people or things.

blurry - adj. unclear or less distinct.

burly - adj. (of a person) large and strong.

defiant - adj. disobedient.

deviant - adj. diverging from usual or accepted standards.

descent - n. the action of descending a downward slope.

eligible - adj. satisfying the appropriate conditions.

facet - n. one side of something many-sided, especially of a cut gem.

faucet - n. a tap.

feign - v. pretend to be affected by (a feeling, state, or injury).

feint - v. make a deceptive or pretended blow, thrust, or other attacking movement.

hail - v. call out to (someone) to attract attention.

hale - adj. (of an old person) strong and healthy.

iconic - adj. symbolic.

illegible - adj. not clear enough to be read.

indelible - adj. unable to be removed.

infallible - adj. incapable of making mistakes or being wrong.

innovation - n. new methods or original ideas.

invocation - n. an incantation used to invoke a deity or the supernatural.

ironic - adj. happening in the opposite way to what is expected, and causing wry amusement.

shirk - v. avoid or neglect (a duty or responsibility).

shriek - n. a high-pitched piercing cry or sound

stead - n. the place or role that someone or something should have or fill.

Challenge 12

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. His writings are so superficial and (inane, insane) that I sometimes doubt his intelligence.

2. The brave Rosalind did not (flinch, finch) even when the baron pointed his rapier at her throat.

3. The Presidents of the two countries exchanged (peasantry, pleasantries) with each other before sitting down to discuss their state affairs.

4. Do you like the playwright's (definition, adaptation) of "Romeo and Juliet?" or do you find it different from the original play?

5. The vet may have to give the cat an injection to (deduce, induce) labour if the situation persists.

Gambling is a (bane, ban) on every society as it causes poverty and breaks up happy families.

Her (affected, unaffected) manner of speaking in a false English accent has made many of her classmates dislike her

I have nobody to blame for my plight as I did everything out of my own (vocation, volition).

It is (mandatory, monetary) to pay income tax in Singapore. Those who refuse to pay will be prosecuted.

The (trellis, tiara) with the clinging vines creates a sense of nature that makes the porch look more attractive.

People who are intolerant of lactose are unable to consume (diary, dairy, daily) products.

I like the rustic and (proverbial, provincial) lifestyle that one leads by the countryside.

She was calm and (composed, comported) when she received the devastating news that her son had been killed.

(Paranoid, Polaroid) people tend to worry excessively about things and need to be pacified all the time.

My neighbour is always very busy as she has to send her (brook, brood) of children to school everyday before going to work herself.

VOCAB quick CHECK

adaptation - n. a film or play adapted from a written work.

affected - adj. artificial, pretentious, and designed to impress.

bane - n. a cause of great distress or annoyance

brood - n. a family of young animals, especially birds, produced at one hatching or birth.

brook - n. a small stream.

comported - adj. conduct oneself; behave.

composed - adj. calm.

deduce - v. arrive at (a fact or a conclusion) by reasoning.

finch - n. songbird.

flinch - v. make a quick, nervous movement as an instinctive reaction to fear or pain.

inane - adj. lacking sense or meaning; silly.

induce - v. succeed in persuading or leading (someone) to do something.

mandatory - adj. compulsory.

peasantry - n. agricultural labou-rer of low social status.

pleasantries - n. an inconsequential remark made as part of a polite conversation.

proverbial - adj. well known, especially so as to be stereotypical.

provincial - adj. of or concerning a province of a country or empire.

tiara - n. a jewelled ornamental band worn on the front of a woman's hair.

trellis - n. a framework of light wooden or metal bars used as a support for trees or creepers.

vocation - n. a person's employment or main occupation.

volition - n. the faculty or power of using one's will.

Challenge 13

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Her (assents, assets) will be divided equally among all her children after her death.

2. The injured dog gave a pathetic (wimple, whimper) as we bent down to stroke its head.

3. It was extremely difficult for the rescue workers to (intricate, extricate) the mangled body from the car wreck.

4. Will you be able to face your own (conscious, conscience) again if you choose to cheat in this test?

5. The (licit, lilac) bedsheets are to my taste as I like all shades of the colour purple.

6. The outrageous costumes the clowns are clad in always (elicit, illicit) laughs from the audience.

7. Please do not try to show me anymore of these (obscene, obscure) magazines or I will have to report you to the teacher.

8. After years of rehabilitation, he is finally living life again with calmness and (seniority, sobriety, sorority).

9. Many cancer patients often suffer a/an (elapse, prolapse, relapse) on their road to recovery.

10. The lady delivered a (inborn, stillborn) baby after she suffered a blow on her abdomen.

11. This is a very serious and (sombre, sober) matter that should not be joked about.

12. I do not want to (expend, expand) too much energy on this issue as I have other things I need to take care of.

13. The archaeologists are going to (execrate, excavate) this tomb once they are given the go-ahead by the Egyptian government.

14. Please get ready to pass me the (wrench, wench) so that I can remove the wheel from the car.

15. A (gourmand, gourmet) like him always dine in expensive restaurants to suss out the finest food around.

VOCAB quick CHECK

assent - n. expression of approval or agreement.

asset - n. property owned by a person or company.

elicit - v. evoke or draw out (a response or answer).

excavate - v. dig out (material) from the ground.

execrate - v. feel or express great loathing for.

expend - v. spend or use up (a resource).

extricate - v. free from a constraint or difficulty.

gourmand - n. a person who enjoys eating, sometimes to excess.

gourmet - n. a connoisseur of good food.

illicit - adj. forbidden by law, rules, or custom.

inborn - v. (of a quality) innate.

intricate - adj. very complicated or detailed.

licit - adj. not forbidden; lawful.

lilac - adj. a pale pinkish-violet colour.

obscure - adj. not clearly expressed or easily understood.

prolapse - n. a slipping forward or down of a part or organ of the body.

rehabilitate - v. restore to a former condition.

sobriety - n. the state of being sober.

sorority - n. a society for female students in a university or college.

stillborn - n. birth of an infant that has died in the womb.

suss - v. understand the true character or nature of.

wench - n. a girl or young woman.

wimple - n. a cloth headdress covering the head, neck, and sides of the face.

whimper - n. a whimpering sound.

wrench - n. an adjustable tool like a spanner, used for gripping and turning nuts or bolts.

Challenge 14

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Please do not litter the table with (pips, pipes) while eating the watermelon as this will create a mess.
2. The child murderer is universally (revived, reviled, revered) for his pernicious acts.
3. This (suit, suite) of furniture is popular with customers, for it includes a sofa set and matching coffee table at a very competitive price.
4. "You will (rue, ruse) this day forever!" the angry witch chanted in front of the boiling pot.
5. You cannot (haggard, haggle) in a shopping centre as the prices are fixed but in a flea market, you can.
6. Many couples are now going for genetic tests to find out whether their child is likely to suffer from any (congenial, congenital) diseases.
7. Please make a (duplicator, duplicate) of this document for me so that I can keep a copy of it.
8. Please read this report and (vet, veto) it for inaccuracies before I submit it to the press.
9. Once your life has settled into a (rig, rut), you will find it very difficult to break old habits unless you make extra effort.
10. I am (vacillating, vaccinating) between going to Europe or Australia for my holidays.
11. Her failed relationship with Tim has caused her to become (disillusioned, delusional) about love.
12. Plants have many (medical, medicinal) uses and can often be made into drugs to cure diseases.
13. A (complementary, complimentary) cocktail will be served once you arrive at the hotel lobby.
14. The police had to (assort, escort) the prisoner to the wash room as they were afraid that he would use the opportunity to escape.
15. Her nail-biting habit is so (odorous, odious) to us that we have decided not to invite her to our party.

VOCAB quick CHECK

assort - v. classify.

complementary - adj. (of two or more different things) combining in such a way as to form a complete whole.

compliemtnary - adj. given or supplied free of charge.

congenial - adj. pleasing through having qualities or interests similar to one's own.

congenital - adj. (especially of a disease or abnormality) present from birth.

delusion - n. an idiosyncratic belief or impression that is not in accordance with a generally accepted reality.

disillusioned - adj. disappointing loss of a belief or an ideal.

duplicator - n. a machine for copying something.

haggle - v. dispute or bargain persistently, especially over a price.

medicinal - adj. having healing properties.

odious - adj. extremely unpleasant; repulsive.

pernicious - adj. having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way.

pip - n. a small, hard seed in a fruit.

revere - v. respect or admire deeply.

revile - v. criticise abusively.

rig- n. an apparatus or device for a particular purpose.

rue - v. bitterly regret (a past event or action) and wish it undone.

ruse - n. a stratagem or trick.

rut - n. a routine or pattern of behaviour that has become dull and unproductive but is hard to change.

suite - n. a set of furniture of the same design.

vaccinate - v. treat with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease.

vacillate - v. waver between different opinions or actions.

veto - v. refuse to accept or allow.

Challenge 15

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Some people believe that certain rituals can (stave, starve) off natural disasters, but there is no scientific truth to that.
2. We are tested on our ability to dig a (trough, trench) to hide in during our military training.
3. I had to (peer, peep, pore) through every picture in the yearbook before I finally found his photo.
4. Some people believe in (sentient, sentiment) life on other planets and space travellers are trying to gather evidence on that.
5. My faith in him and (belief, believe) in his innocence will not change despite your accusations.
6. There will be a (waive, waiver) on the parking fee for all those who display their concert tickets at the parking lot.
7. Your indulgent and (permissible, permissive) behaviour will not be tolerated here. So you better watch your ways!
8. The witch doctor needs some of the man's personal belongings so that the (hex, hoax) to curse him will work.
9. (Leeks, Leaks) are the vegetables I hate eating most, although they contain a very high nutritional value.
10. Please buck up and stop being such a (slack, shack) worker, or you will get fired very soon!
11. We must show the enemy our (solidity, solidarity) so that they will not think that we are divided internally.
12. Jimmy is a very (sieve, suave) and attractive man despite his age, and he has a bevy of women after him!
13. Many people do not welcome changes and prefer to maintain their status (qua, quo) instead of trying out new things.
14. Many people go to the wise old (sage, saga) for advice whenever they run into problems that they are unable to solve.
15. The puppy gave a (piteous, pitiable) cry as we walked past the rubbish dump, willing us to bring it home.

VOCAB quick CHECK

hex - n. a magic spell.

hoax - n. a humorous or malicious deception.

permissible - adj. allowable; permitted.

permissive - adj. allowing or characterized by freedom of behaviour.

piteous - adj. deserving or arousing pity.

saga - n. a long, involved account or series of incidents.

sage - n. a man recognized for his wisdom.

sentient - adj. able to perceive or feel things.

sentiment - n. exaggerated and self-indulgent feelings of tenderness, sadness, or nostalgia.

shack - n. a roughly built hut or cabin.

solidarity - n. unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest.

status quo - n. the existing state of affairs.

stave - v. avert or delay something bad or dangerous.

suave - adj. charming, confident, and elegant.

trench - n. a long, narrow ditch.

trough - n. a long, narrow open container for animals to eat or drink out of.

waive - v. refrain from insisting on or applying (a right or claim).

waiver - n. an act or instance of waiving a right or claim.

Challenge 16

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. These pills are supposed to give you a (boast, boost) of energy and spirits, but not everybody will experience the same effect.
2. We will need to try to (savage, salvage) this situation if we are to stop the company from folding up.
3. The recent (famish, famine) in China is one of the worst crisis the country has ever experienced.
4. It is a common belief that pigs like to (callow, wallow) in mud, making themselves dirty all over.
5. She was (smothered, soothed) with a pillow and left for dead long before the police discovered her body.
6. This picturesque lake used to be an abandoned (query, quarry) before the landscaping efforts by the government.
7 (Bilateral, Unilateral) ties between China and America have never been as sour in the past ten years as it is now.
8. The espresso machine (filtrates, filters) water through the coffee grounds, producing a smooth and aromatic cup of espresso.
9. These are (confidential, confidant) files containing information which must not be revealed to the public at all costs.
10. The enemy has finally been (varnished, vanquished)! We can have peace at last!
11. As the saying goes, there is always the (lull, lax) before the storm. We have to be wary at all times.
12. We regret to inform you that you have nothing in your portfolio to (command, commend) you for this position.
13. The magician dug into his roomy and (capricious, capacious) pockets to come up with a rabbit!
14. The Princess was trained from a very young age to bow and make the perfect (curtsy, courtesy) in front of visitors.
15. Tired of Susan's (repetitive, repetitious) complaints, we decided to leave her out in our next outing.

VOCAB quick CHECK

bilateral - adj. involving two parties.

boost - n. help or encourage to increase or improve.

callow - adj. (of a young person) inexperienced and immature.

capacious - adj. having a lot of space inside; roomy.

capricious - adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour.

commend - v. praise formally or officially.

confidant - n. a person in whom one confides.

famish - v. reduce or be reduced to extreme hunger.

filtrate - v. filter.

lax - adj. not sufficiently strict, severe, or careful.

lull - n. a temporary period of quiet or inactivity.

picturesque - adj. visually attractive in a quaint or charming manner.

quarry - n. a large pit, from which stone or other materials may be extracted.

repetitious - adj. being repeated.

repetitive - adj. containing or characterized by repetition.

salvage - v. retrieve or preserve from loss or destruction.

savage - v. attack ferociously.

smother - v. suffocate by covering the nose and mouth.

unilateral - adj. performed by or affecting only one person, group, or country.

vanquish - v. defeat thoroughly.

varnish - v. apply a coat of substance to give a hard, clear, shiny surface when dry.

wallow - v. roll about or lie in mud or water.

Challenge 17

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Please (scour, scourge) the bottom of the pot to get rid of these burnt marks.
2. Please (ratify, rectify) the problems in our operations so that there will not be any slip-ups during the launch tomorrow.
3. A new (stain, strain) of the virus has recently been discovered, causing much talk-about in the medical world.
4. The writings on this old papyrus are not very (district, distinct), so much time has to be devoted to deciphering the messages.
5. The many setbacks he has suffered in life have left him a broken (embittered, embattled) man.
6. One should not (scrimp, shrimp) on essentials that make up a healthy and nutritious diet just in order to save money.
7. There has been a recent (gut, glut) of property on the market, resulting in a drop in prices.
8. Please (renounce, announce) the change in location over the public address system so that everybody can know about it.
9. There has been a (death, dearth) of volunteers at the Home recently as fewer and fewer people are willing to spend time volunteering.
10. The (venue, avenue) for the New Year Concert this year has been changed to the National Indoor Stadium so that more people can join in the celebration.
11. The small country served as a convenient (buffet, buffer) between the two powerful warring nations.
12. You should be more (reactive, proactive) in sending out your resume if you are serious about looking for a job.
13. The (baboon, buffoon) is part of the primate family which shares similar traits with the monkey.
14. A (pistol, piston) was found in the bushes - the police suspected that this was the murder weapon.
15. Everybody sat with (wrapped, rapt) attention as the speaker was delivering the most captivating speech.

VOCAB quick CHECK

avenue - n. a means of approach.

baboon - n. a large ground-dwelling social monkey with a long dog-like snout and large teeth.

buffer - n. a person or thing that reduces a shock or forms a barrier between adversaries.

buffoon - n. a ridiculous but amusing person.

dearth - n. a scarcity or lack of something.

embattle - v. make ready for battle.

embitter - v. make bitter or resentful.

glut - n. an excessively abundant supply.

gut - n. the stomach or belly.

piston - n. a disc or short cylinder fitting closely within a tube in which it moves up and down against a liquid or gas.

rapt - adj. fully absorbed and intent; fascinated.

ratify - v. give formal consent to; make officially valid.

rectify - v. put right; correct.

renounce - v. formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession).

scour - v. clean or brighten by vigorous rubbing, typically with an abrasive or detergent.

scourge - v. cause great suffering to.

scrimp - v. be thrifty or parsimonious; economise.

strain - n. a distinct breed, stock, or variety of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Challenge 18

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The (motion, movement) for today's debate is: "Can good and evil coexist?"

2. He is more (marrow, mellow) now and is no longer the rebellious teenager that I had known him to be.

3. You can tell that he is troubled by something from his curt and (tense, terse) replies to our questions.

4. I have always liked the books about the three adventurous (salutes, sleuths) who call themselves "The Three Investigators".

5. Do take some time to (refract, reflect) on your actions and see whether what you've done is right.

6. The can of tuna is saturated in a solution of (brink, brine) so that it can be preserved for a long time.

7. The female police officer went undercover as a (decoy, deploy) in order to capture the master criminal.

. To make myself a hot cup of coffee, I spooned in some coffee (globules, granules), then added in some boiling water and stirred the mixture.

. Professor Tan just walked into the lecture hall and started lecturing without any (pretext, preamble).

0. "Just a (tinge, twinge) of salt will do, adding too much salt will spoil the taste of the dish," the cook warned.

1. Please throw the bag of rubbish down the (refuse, refute) chutc before the pests and smell come.

2. Oh no! there is a (smidgen, smudge) on my painting. I have to redo the whole thing now.

. "(Frieze, Freeze)!" the police shouted but the burglars ignored the warning and continued to flee.

. Only famous people will have an (epithet, epitaph) affixed to the ends of their names to commemorate them.

We were rooted in fear as the (hoard, horde) of bulls came charging towards us.

VOCAB quick CHECK

brine - n. water containing dissolved salt.
brink - n. the verge of a state or situation, typically an undesirable one.
decoy - n. a person or thing used to mislead or lure someone into a trap.
deploy - v. bring or move into position for military action.
epitaph - n. words written in memory of a person who has died.
epithet - n. aphrase expressing a characteristic quality or attribute of the person or thing mentioned.
frieze - n. heavy, coarse woollen cloth with a nap.
globule - n. a small round particle of a substance; a drop.
granule - n. a small compact particle.
hoard - n. a store of money or valued objects.
horde - n. a large group of.
marrow - n. a substance in the cavities of bones, in which blood cells are produced.
mellow - adj. (of a person's character) softened by maturity or experience.
motion - n. a formal proposal put to a legislature or committee.
movement - n. a development.
preamble - n. a preliminary statement; an introduction.
pretext - n. an ostensible or false reason used to justify an action.
refract - v. change the direction of propagation of radio, sound, or other waves.
refuse - n. matter thrown away as worthless.
refute - v. deny (a statement or accusation).
saturate - v. soak thoroughly with water or other liquid.
sleuth - n. a detective.
smidgen - n. a tiny amount.
terse - adj. sparing in the use of words; abrupt.
tinge - n. a slight trace.
twinge - n. a brief, sharp pang of emotion.

Challenge 19

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Our (leash, lease, leech) for the shop is going to be expired soon, but we intend to renew it.

2. Don't worry, the storm is going to (subscribe, subside) in no time and the weather will be fine again.

3. Please pass me the (towel, trowel) from the shed so that I can do some gardening work.

4. We were all crying our hearts out at the funeral as the coffin was (interned, interred) into the ground.

5. It was a gusty and (willowy, billowy) day and wind speeds reached record highs, making kite-flying the ideal thing to do for the day.

6. There are many (interstices, intertwines) in the design of this wall, which makes it unsuitable for use in cold weather.

7. The ancient mansion was poorly constructed; there was nothing in it that could have met even the lowest of (aerobics, aesthetic) standard.

8. I feel a lot of sympathy for the old lady as she is suffering from (chronic, chronicle) arthritis that causes her much pain.

9. He is now living in a monastery to (atone, atoll) for the wrongdoings he had committed in his younger days.

10. The invalid was (repenting, reposing) on the bed when I entered the room, but he was too sick to greet me.

11. A (hospital, hospice) is where a team of professional nurses cares for terminally-ill patients until they pass away.

12. "Please do not (ply, pile) me with questions now, I am very tired," the stressed mother begged her children.

13. Fans turned up in (drives, droves) to bid for memorabilia from "The Lord of the Rings" auction last night.

14. Don't (pestle, pester) me as I am busily trying to prepare my notes for an important meeting.

15. The monk was unable to renounce (earthen, earthly) pleasures and soon succumbed to temptation again.

VOCAB quick CHECK

aesthetic - adj. concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.
atoll - n. a ring-shaped reef or chain of islands formed of coral.
atone - v. make amends or reparation for.
billowy - adj. cloudy.
chronic - adj. (of an illness) persisting for a long time or constantly recurring.
chronicle - n. a written account of important events in the order of their occurrence.
drove - n. a large number of people doing the same thing.
earthen - adj. (of a pot) made of baked or fired clay.
earthly - adj. material; worldly.
hospice - n. a home providing care for the sick or terminally ill.
intern - v. confine as a prisoner.
inter - v. place (a corpse) in a grave or tomb.
interstice - n. a small intervening space.
intertwine - v. twist or twine together.
lease - n. a contract by which one party conveys land, property, services to another for a specified time.
leash - n. a dog's lead.
leech - n. a parasitic worm.
memorabilia - n. objects kept or collected because of their associations with memorable people or events.
pestle - n. a heavy tool with a rounded end, used for crushing and grinding substances in a mortar.
ply - v. direct (numerous questions) at someone.
repose - v. lie down in rest.
subscribe - v. arrange to receive something, especially a periodical, regularly by paying in advance.
subside - v. become less intense, violent, or severe.
trowel - n. a small tool with a curved scoop for lifting plants or earth.
willowy - adj. (of a person) tall, slim, and lithe.

Challenge 20

VOCAB quick CHECK

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The rival company is trying to (poach, pouch) staff from our top management. I heard Sally is leaving to join them soon.
2. The (astral, aural) quality of this sound system is astounding, but its price is also shocking.
3. The (statistic, static) from the radio is very strong. Are you sure it's not spoilt?
4. The (dragon, dragoon) marched orderly into town under the disciplined eye of their commander.
5. The welder is going to (solder, soldier) the bolt to the mainframe before calling it a day.
6. Just (grist, grit) your teeth and bear with the pain as no anaesthetic is available here.
7. The (enmity, amenity) between the two is obvious to all as they are extremely sarcastic to each other.
8. I am glad that the balm is able to (elevate, alleviate) your pain and lessen your discomfort.
9. Do not spread any malicious gossip about her as you may unwittingly (tarnish, varnish) her reputation.
10. I am not sure who invented this (doily, dolly), but it sure is an ingenious idea to put the camera on a mobile frame.
11. My weekend was (dominated, domineered) by the piles of schoolwork Miss Lee had set for us, leaving me with no time to play.
12. The fresh air and peaceful environment at the spa resort is (conductive, conducive) for relaxation.
13. Lord Burton's butler carefully knocked out the leftover (shag, slag) from his pipe before continuing to smoke again.
14. The baby was so heavily (swaddled, swaggered) in blankets that I could not even see its face.
15. Gordan tried to (dissimulate, simulate, stimulate) his fears by putting on a brave front.

alleviate - v. make (pain or difficulty) less severe

amenity - n. a useful or desirable feature of a building or place

astounding - adj. shocking

astral - adj. relating to or resembling the stars

aural - adj. relating to the ear or the sense of hearing

conducive - adj. contributing or helping towards

dissimulate - v. hide or disguise one's thoughts or feelings

doily - n. a small ornamental mat made of lace or paper, put on a plate under sweet food

dolly - n. a small platform on wheels for holding heavy objects, typically film cameras.

dragoon - n. a member of any of several British cavalry regiments.

enmity - n. hostility.

grist - n. malt crushed to make mash for brewing.

grit - v. clench one's teeth, especially when faced with something unpleasant.

poach - v. take or acquire in an unfair or clandestine way.

pouch - v. put into a pouch.

shag - n. coarse-cut tobacco.

slag - n. stony waste matter separated from metals during the smelting or refining of ore.

solder - v. join with solder.

simulate - v. imitate or reproduce the appearance, character, or conditions of.

swaddle - v. wrap in garments or cloth.

swagger - v. walk or behave arrogantly or self-importantly.

tarnish - v. make less valuable or respected.

unwitting - adj. not aware of the full facts

Challenge 21

VOCAB quick CHECK

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. I can't believe that the person at the (hem, helm) of the lingerie company is actually a man!
2. You cannot say that his story is not (plausible, possible), even though I agree that it's not very convincing.
3. Everyone was (extorting, exhorting) Samuel to go and apologise to his wife so that they can be reconciled.
4. Knights used to wear armours of chain (mall, mail) and a breastplate to protect their chests from injury.
5. The Greek restaurant was fronted by a small (portico, porch) made of two slender pillars supporting a roof bearing the name of the restaurant.
6. Mrs Koh's mind has been on the (ledge, edge) the whole day since she learnt that her son has been hospitalised.
7. Do not be so (hash, harsh) on him, he has realised his mistake and will not do it again.
8. The creative and intelligent camera angles used in this film were recognised internationally. It won the award for best (chirography, cinematography) at the recent film festival.
9. The judge is an impartial and (disinterested, uninterested) officer who presides over the hearing of a court case.
10. The villagers do not welcome the stranger as they find him too (urban, urbane) for their liking.
11. My grandfather was the one who (found, founded) this company and it has been flourishing under my father's capable hands ever since.
12. The (rabble, rubble) dispersed after the police fired tear gas into their midst.
13. I have not unveiled my (thump, trump) card, so don't gloat yet, for I may have the last laugh.
14. Terry was (floundering, foundering) like a fish out of water at the posh party, making a fool of himself with his crude ways.
15. The secretary had to adjust the (linage, lineage) of the paragraphs before printing out the report.

chirography - n. handwriting, especially as distinct from typography

cinematography - n. the art of photography and camerawork in filmmaking

exhort - v. strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something

flounder - v. stagger clumsily in mud or water.

found - v. establish (an institution or organisation).

founder - v. (of a ship) fill with water and sink.

hash - n. a jumble; a mess.

helm - n. a position of leadership.

hem - n. edge of a piece of cloth or clothing which has been turned under and sewn.

ledge - n. a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff, etc.

linage - n. number of lines in printed or written matter.

lineage - n. descent from an ancestor or ancestors.

mail - n. armour made of metal rings or plates joined together flexibly.

mall - n. a large enclosed shopping area from which traffic is excluded.

plausible - adj. apparently reasonable or probable, without necessarily being so.

portico - n. a structure consisting of a roof supported by columns at regular intervals.

preside - v. be in a position of authority in a meeting, court, etc.

rabble - n. a disorderly crowd.

rubble - n. debris from the demolition of buildings.

thump - v. put down forcefully, noisily, or decisively.

trump - adj. a valuable resource that may be used, especially as a surprise, to gain an advantage.

urbane - adj. (especially of a man) suave, courteous, and refined.

Challenge 22

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The (feat, fleet)-footed always have an advantage in athletic games, but you still can't win without rigorous training.
2. Our (jowls, jaws) tend to get more pronounced with age as the skin around our cheeks sag over time.
3. I know one of the girls in the (quartet, quarter) of harmonica players who performed during the school concert.
4. The steel sword needs to be (tampered, tempered) before I will consider it fully forged.
5. The walls of the tent were decorated with the (peels, pelts) of animals.
6. The stadium was (teaming, teeming) with fans who came from all over Asia to support their favourite pop star.
7. We must always show (optimum, optimism) during the bleakest moments of our lives if we are to get through them.
8. There were always (louts, touts) harassing us to buy souvenirs every time we stepped off our tour bus in Thailand.
9. Playing a good game of snooker requires a lot of (finesse, fitness) and skill, so lots of practice helps.
10. The artist mixed the different paints on his (palate, palette) to obtain a suitable colour for his picture.
11. Listen to me and sell your stocks; I have a (haunch, hunch) that prices will drop.
12. You can make the dish smell more (flagrant, fragrant) by adding some fried onions to it before serving.
13. Betty's (discomfort, discomfiture) and embarrassment at Mohan's intense and overly personal questions was obvious, but he remained oblivious to it.
14. As she was driving, she started to unconsciously (crone, croon) softly along to the song that was playing on the radio.
15. It is preferable but not (mandatary, mandatory) to have tertiary qualifications for this position.

VOCAB quick CHECK

crone - n. an ugly old woman

croon - v. hum, sing, or speak in a soft, low voice.

discomfiture - n. uneasiness.

feat - n. an achievement requiring great courage, skill, or strength.

finesse - n. subtle skill in dealing with people or situations.

flagrant - adj. conspicuous; blatant.

fleet - adj. fast and nimble.

haunch - n. the leg and loin of an animal, as food.

hunch - n. a feeling or guess based on intuition.

jowl - n. the lower part of a cheek, especially when fleshy or drooping.

lout - n. an uncouth or aggressive man.

mandatary - n. a person or state receiving a mandate.

mandatory - adj. required by law or mandate; compulsory.

optimum - n. the optimum conditions for growth, reproduction, or success.

palate - n. the roof of the mouth.

pelt - n. the skin of an animal with the fur, wool, or hair still on it.

quartet - n. a group of four people playing music or singing together.

tamper - v. interfere with (something) without authority or so as to cause damage.

teem - v. be full of or swarming with.

temper - v. improve the consistency or resiliency of (a substance) by heating it or adding particular substances to it.

tout - n. a person who attempts to sell (something), typically by a direct or persistent approach.

Challenge 23

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Certain goods such as cigarettes and alcohol are (dutiful, dutiable) under the rules of the customs office in Singapore.
2. The magician did his hocus-(focus, pocus) by using his wand to produce a rabbit from his top hat!
3. My new skirt is starting to (flay, fray) at the hem only after a few washes!
4. My wedding banquet is going to be held in a white (marquee, marquis) set up in the Botanic Gardens so that well-wishers can enjoy themselves outdoors.
5. The pirates had a (slash, stash) of treasure hidden on a deserted island, but nobody knows exactly where.
6. New York cab drivers have a (mash, mesh) set-up between the front and back seats to prevent customers from attacking them.
7. She speaks in a (coarse, hoarse) rasping voice and always sounds like she is having a sore throat.
8. I can't believe I fell for the (scan, scam) that the conman had set up to cheat me of my money!
9. We are going to open a (portal, porter) to the third dimension in this experiment so that more discoveries can be made.
10. I remember that I used to have a (tope, top) that I would spin round and round when I was young.
11. The athlete took a quick run and then (vaunted, vaulted) easily over the pole, making it seem like an effortless sport.
12. Eating an appetiser will only (whet, whey) your appetite and make you more hungry.
13. The chauvinistic man complained that women used to be so much gentler in the days of (yoke, yore).
14. The steel case was reinforced with (rivets, privets) at the sides so that it cannot be plied open easily.
15. It is wrong of the housewife to hurl (inflammable, inflammatory) remarks at the poor salesman just because he did not give her a bigger discount for the item.

VOCAB quick CHECK

dutiable - adj. liable to customs or other duties: dutiable goods.

dutiful - adj. conscientiously or obediently fulfilling one's duty.

flay - v. whip or beat harshly.

fray - v. unravel or become worn at the edge.

hocus-pocus - n. meaningless talk used for trickery.

inflammable - adj. easily set on fire.

inflammatory - adj. arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings.

marquee - n. a large tent used for social or commercial functions.

marquis - n. a nobleman ranking above a count and below a duke.

mash - n. a soft mass made by crushing a substance into a pulp.

mesh - n. material made of a network of wire or thread.

portal - n. a doorway, gate, or gateway.

privet - n. a shrub of the olive family, with small white scented flowers and poisonous black berries.

rivet - n. a short metal pin or bolt for holding together two metal plates.

scam - n. a dishonest scheme; a fraud.

stash - n. a secret store of something.

top - n. a conical, spherical, or pear-shaped toy that may be set to spin.

tope - n. a sun hat.

vault - v. eap or spring while supporting or propelling oneself with the hands or a pole.

vaunt - v. boast about or praise (something) excessively.

whet - v. excite or stimulate (someone's desire, interest, or appetite).

whey - n. the watery part of milk that remains after the formation of curds.

yore - n. of former times or long ago.

Challenge 24

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The highway men put a (notch, noose) around the rich man's neck and hung him before making away with all his money.
2. "Please do not stand on (ceremony, ceremonial) with me. Make yourself feel at home!" Harson said with a beaming smile.
3. Please accept this piece of calligraphy as a (memento, memorial) of your visit to Beijing.
4. My aunt had a huge wedding cake made up of many (tiers, tears) of cream sponge cake built one on top of another.
5. The cheetah (lopped, loped) easily and effortlessly across the savannah in pursuit of its prey.
6. The soldiers (covered, surrounded) their adversaries and attacked from all sides, forcing them to surrender.
7. The girls in Singapore are very (metropolitan, cosmopolitan) as they have been exposed to the many different cultures of the world.
8. The (entrap, trap) I designed for catching rats is extremely successful as experiments show that the rats that were caught in it could not escape.
9. The (fryers, friars) at the abbey are quiet and austere and hardly venture into the town to interact with the community.
10. I have a (gut, glut) feeling that the way out of the maze is the path on the right, and my intuition is always right.
11. This case is (fogged, shrouded) in mystery as no one has yet to identify the victim.
12. She (pursed, pursued) her lips in consternation as she was trying to solve the puzzle in the shortest time possible.
13. Baros had no choice but to (gash, gnash) his teeth in rage and watch his rival take his girlfriend away.
14. This matter does not come under the (purview, preview) of our Ministry and therefore we are in no position to comment.
15. The mysterious disease has reached (epidemic, epidermic) proportions and all the villagers have been seriously affected.

VOCAB quick CHECK

adversary - n. an opponent.
consternation - n. anxiety or dismay.
cosmopolitan - adj. familiar with or representative of many different countries and cultures.
epidemic - n. a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.
epidermic - adj. the outer layer of tissue in a plant.
entrap - v. trick (someone) into committing a crime in order to secure their prosecution.
friar - n. a member of any of certain religious orders of men.
gash - n. a long, deep slash, cut, or wound.
gnash - v. grind (one's teeth) together as a sign of anger.
glut - n. an excessively abundant supply.
gut - n. the stomach or belly.
lope - v. the stomach or belly.
lop - v. cut off (a branch or limb) from a tree or body.
memento - n. an object kept as a reminder or souvenir.
memorial - n. a structure or statue established in memory of a person or event.
metropolitan - adj. city-like.
noose - n. a loop with a running knot which tightens as the rope or wire is pulled.
notch - n. an indentation or incision on an edge or surface.
preview - n. a viewing or display of something before it is acquired or becomes generally available.
purse- v. (with reference to the lips) pucker or contract.
purview - n. the scope of the influence or concerns of something.
shroud - v. cover or envelop so as to conceal from view.
tier - n. one of a series of rows or levels placed one above the other.

Challenge 25

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The Bolshevik (evolution, revolution) changed the course of Russian history forever.
2. The movie (reviewer, reviser) gave "The Matrix" a rating of only two stars, but many people still want to watch the film.
3. Armies tend to loot and (pilfer, plunder) after conquering an enemy city.
4. Let us solve this issue before it becomes a full-blown (critic, crisis). It may be too hot for us to handle then.
5. Sending a handwritten Christmas card with the present adds a (human, humane) touch that beats an electronic mail greeting anytime.
6. When I acted in my class drama skit, I had (rouge, rogue) applied to my cheeks that brought a rosy glow to my face.
7. The Chinese believe in checking the (alumnus, almanac) for auspicious dates when deciding when to hold important events.
8. The (tonsil, tonsure) of all the novice monks will take place tomorrow morning. However, visitors are banned from observing the ceremony.
9. The (axis, axle) of the hamster's wheel appears to be spoilt; that is why we cannot turn the wheel.
10. The play ended up in shambles because you missed your (clue, cue) on stage just now!
11. She could not help but give a (grime, grimace) of pain when we touched her swollen ankle.
12. There is a (verve, valve) near the tip of the kettle spout so that steam from the boiling water is able to escape.
13. The (petit, petite) lady looks young for her age but she is already in her thirties.
14. The (emigrants, immigrants, migrants) left their homeland to another country in the hope of securing a better future for their families.
15. The railway workers are planning to (picket, picker)at the central railway station to demand for higher wages and shorter working hours.

VOCAB quick CHECK

almanac - n. an annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information.
alumnus - n. a former pupil or student of a particular school.
axle - n. a rod or spindle passing through the centre of a wheel or group of wheels.
emigrant - n. a person who leaves their own country in order to settle permanently in another.
evolution - n. gradual development.
grimace - n. an ugly, twisted expression on a person's face, typically expressing disgust, pain, or wry amusement.
grime - n. dirt ingrained on a surface.
humane - adj. compassionate or benevolent.
immigrant - n. a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
petit - adj. (of a crime) petty.
petite - adj. (of a woman) attractively small and dainty.
picket - v. stand outside a workplace trying to persuade others not to enter during a strike.
piler - v. steal (things of little value).
plunder - v. orcibly steal goods from, especially in time of war or civil disorder.
rogue - n. a dishonest or unprincipled man.
rouge - n. a red powder or cream used as a cosmetic for colouring the cheeks or lips.
shambles - n. a chaotic state.
tonsil - n. either of two small masses of lymphoid tissue in the throat, one on each side of the root of the tongue.
tonsure - n. an act of shaving a monk's or priest's head in this way as a preparation for entering a religious order.
valve - n. a device for controlling the passage of fluid through a pipe or duct.
verve - n. vigour, spirit, and style.

Challenge 26

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. Movie makers used to have to physically (splice, spice) rolls of film to each other in order to edit scenes.

2. The spy's report included information about the enemy's (demography, topography) and physical terrain.

3. Johnny has a bright (magnetic, magenta) smile that attracts women of all ages.

4. Do not (berate, beret) him anymore about his wrongful act as he is now genuinely sorry for his past mistake.

5. He kept (intersecting, interspersing) his jokes with his infectious laughter, making everybody laugh with him.

6. "Before going for a run, remember to (hydrate, hydrant) yourself with some water," Helen advised.

7. I hate my badminton (couch, coach) as he is a very hard taskmaster, who demands that we play as well as him.

8. Botanists are always experimenting to get new (hydras, hybrids) out of old plant stocks.

9. You never appreciate your (sensory, sensual) faculties such as your sight or hearing until you lose it.

10. The (hull, hulk) of the Titanic was damaged and nobody was able to repair it in time.

11. The accident was so (fateful, fatal) that the plane burst into flames in mid-air, killing everyone on board instantaneously.

2. He is such a miser that he (dolls, doles) out only a piece of bread to his maid for breakfast each day.

3. Men of your (caliper, calibre) should not waste time doing a menial job like this.

4. Horse riders tend to wear riding (breeches, breaches) so that their movements are not hindered while riding.

. David Copperfield created a/an (allusion, illusion, delusion) when he performed the spectacular feat of walking through the Great Wall of China.

VOCAB quick CHECK

allusion - n. the practice of making indirect or implicit references.

berate - v. scold or criticise angrily.

beret - n. a round flattish cap of felt or cloth.

breach - n. an act of breaking a law, agreement, or code of conduct.

breeches - n. short trousers fastened just below the knee, now chiefly worn for riding

caliper - n. an instrument for measuring external or internal dimensions.

delusion - n. an idiosyncratic belief or impression that is not in accordance with a generally accepted reality.

demography - n. the study of the structure of human populations using statistics relating to births, deaths, wealth, etc.

dole - v. distribute something.

doll - v. dress someone smartly and attractively.

fateful - adj. having far-reaching, especially disastrous consequences or implications.

hulk - n. an old ship stripped of fittings and permanently moored

hull - n. the main body of a ship or other vessel.

hybrid - n. a thing made by combining two different elements.

hydra - n. a minute freshwater coelenterate with a stalk-like tubular body and a ring of tentacles around the mouth.

hydrant - n. a water pipe with a nozzle to which a fire hose can be attached.

intersperse - v. diversify with other things at intervals.

magenta - adj. a light mauvish-crimson colour.

sensory - adj. of or relating to sensation or the senses.

splice - v. join (pieces of timber, film, or tape) at the ends.

topography - n. the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.

Challenge 27

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. I usually go to the (cobber, cobbler) at the end of the street to repair my shoes because he charges a competitive rate.

2. This brand of cereal is made from (possessed, processed) maize and is therefore more costly than any other brands on the shelves.

3. One of my favourite ice-cream (flavours, favours) is pecan, but it always runs out before I can buy one because it is so hot-selling.

4. The (raillery, railing) along the veranda is too low to keep out burglars, so the owner decides to tear it down and build a higher one with a security alarm.

5. This antique Victorian (toilet, toilette) set is simply exquisite, but it costs a bomb and only the rich can afford it.

6. Let me (pose, poise) this question to you and see if you will be able to answer it.

7. As Eva was born with a cleft lip, she tends to speak with a (lisp, lint) that makes her the laughing stock of her peers.

8. Do not (halter, falter) at the end just before reaching your goal, but persevere on and you will see the light at the end of the tunnel!

9. It is so calming to watch the cows (gazing, grazing) lazily on the fields.

10. My grandmother died from a brain (collusion, concussion) after suffering a fall and hitting her head.

11. My head was (reeling, reeking) in circles after I walked straight into a lamp post.

12. All the children shrieked with excitement when the clown's parrot started (preening, posing) its feathers.

13. The heart-broken Romeo approached the (briar, friar) to find out the whereabouts of his beloved Juliet.

14. Having displayed outstanding leadership skills in her school, Maggi was nominated as the (prefect, perfect) year after year.

15. There is no other (alternate, alternative); we have to take this mountainous route or risk being captured.

VOCAB quick CHECK

briar - n. a prickly scrambling shrub, especially a wild rose.

cobber - n. a companion or friend.

collusion - n. secret or illegal cooperation in order to cheat or deceive others.

concussion - n. temporary unconsciousness or confusion caused by a blow on the head.

falter - v. move or speak hesitantly.

friar - n. a member of any of certain religious orders of men.

halter - v. strap a rope around the head of an animal to lead or tether it.

lint - n. short, fine fibres which separate from cloth or yarn during processing.

lisp - n. a speech defect.

poise - v. be or cause to be balanced or suspended.

pose - v. present or constitute (a problem, danger, question, etc.).

preen - v. (of a bird) tidy and clean its feathers with its beak.

raillery - n. good-humoured teasing.

reek - v. have a foul smell.

reel - v. feel giddy or bewildered.

toilette - n. old-fashioned term for toilet.

veranda - n. a roofed platform along the outside of a house, level with the ground floor

Challenge 28

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. I can never understand why she keeps forgiving her (erratic, errant) husband for his repeated infidelities.
2. The rowdy men in the tavern were all drinking big mugs of (groggy, grog) to celebrate their winnings at the gambling den earlier on.
3. The refreshing smell of (colon, cologne) lingered in the air when my boyfriend splashed some on his shave.
4. We sat on a (gondola, galosh) and went sailing down the canals when we went on our honeymoon to Venice.
5. The children were enjoying themselves so much at the birthday party that they were (catering, capering) 'around like monkeys.
6. The singer had on a bright pink feather (boa, boar) that she kept twirling around during her dance.
7. For beginners, it is so much easier to swim across the (breath, breadth) rather than the length of the pool.
8. The player (capitulated, capitalised) on the goalkeeper's mistake and scored a goal.
9. I have no choice but to (dodge, dock) your pay since you were late so many times this week.
10. The wild dog started to growl and raise its (hackles, heckles) when we approached it.
11. You can control the characters on the computer screen by moving the (toga, toggle) stick.
12. You guys were making such a (dint, din) in the living room that our neighbours had to complain to the police!
13. The crystal (candelabrum, chandelier) suspended in the middle of the ballroom was so breathtaking that a few guests simply stared at it in awe.
14. The bodybuilder went on stage and started to (flex, flax) his muscles so that judges could rate his performance.
15. Thankfully, the mistake you have made is still (reputable, reparable), so you better make the necessary amendments now.

VOCAB quick CHECK

boa - n. a long, thin stole of feathers or fur worn around a woman's neck.
candelabrum - n. a large branched candlestick or holder for several candles or lamps.
caper - v. skip or dance about in a lively or playful way.
capitalise - v. take the chance to gain advantage from.
capitulate - v. cease to resist an opponent; surrender.
chandelier - n. a large decorative hanging light with branches for several light bulbs or candles.
colon - n. the main part of the large intestine.
cologne - n. scented toilet water.
din - n. a loud, unpleasant, and prolonged noise.
dint - n. an impression or hollow in a surface.
dock - v. deduct (money or a point in a score).
dodge - v. avoid by a sudden quick movement.
errant - adj. straying from the accepted course or standards.
erratic - adj. not even or regular in pattern or movement.
flax - n. a blue-flowered herbaceous plant.
flex - v. contract or tense (a muscle).
galosh - n. a waterproof rubber overshoe.
gondola - n. a light flat-bottomed boat.
grog - n. spirits mixed with water.
hackle - n. hairs along an animal's back, which rise when it is angry or alarmed.
heckle - v. interrupt (a public speaker) with derisive comments or abuse.
toga - n. a loose flowing outer garment worn by the citizens of ancient Rome.
toggle - n. a key or command that is operated the same way but with opposite effect on successive occasions.

Challenge 29

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. The change in plans took her (aback, abound) completely, and she could not react in time.
2. The (chamberlain, chambermaid) just came into our hotel room to replenish the towels.
3. You will need a (guarantee, guarantor) for your housing loan before the bank can issue the money to you.
4. Jennifer Lopez wore a revealing black dress with a plunging (necktie, neckline) at this year's awards ceremony.
5. You will need to (whisk, whisker) the cream briskly until soft peaks are formed so that the cake can rise to the desired volume.
6. The mentally-handicapped, no matter what age they are in, tend to be as (artless, artistic) as innocent children.
7. My voice is so many (octaves, octavos) higher than the normal man's that many people have suggested that I join the opera.
8. Let us go straight to the point without any further (afoot, ado).
9. Only after seeing how Mrs Lee risked her life to save her son from danger did we realised that a mother's love for her child is (unmeasurable, immeasurable).
10. As I walked past the terrace house, the ferocious dog behind the gate growled and (barred, bared) its teeth at me.
11. The staff had to do a complete (inventory, conservatory) of the stock after the boss suspected that one of them had been pilfering the goods.
12. (Mince, Dice) the carrots into small cubes before placing them into the pot of hot water so that the vegetables can cook faster.
13. The crew member moved the (scull, skull) with all his might in an effort to propel his boat forward.
14. The Egyptians had the practice of (embalming, embarking) their dead so that the bodies could be preserved for many years to come.
15. Don't try to scratch the wound anymore, for it has turned (septic, sceptic).

VOCAB quick CHECK

aback - v. shock or surprise someone.
abound - v. exist in large numbers or amounts.
ado - n. trouble; fuss.
afoot - adv. in preparation or progress.
artless - adj. without guile or pretension.
bare - v. uncover (a part of the body) and expose it to view.
chamberlain - n. an officer who managed the household of a monarch or noble.
conservatory - n. a room with a glass roof and walls, attached to a house and used as a sun lounge or for growing delicate plants.
embalm - v. preserve (a corpse) from decay.
embark - v. begin (a new project or course of action).
immeasurable - adj. too large, extensive, or extreme to measure.
inventory - n. a quantity of goods in stock.
octave - n. a series of eight notes occupying the interval between (and including) two notes, one having twice or half the frequency of vibration of the other.
octavo - n. a size of book page that results from folding each printed sheet into eight leaves (sixteen pages).
sceptic - n. a person inclined to question or doubt accepted opinions.
septic - n. (of a wound or a part of the body) infected with bacteria.
scull - n. each of a pair of small oars used by a single rower.

Challenge 30

Select the correct words in the brackets to complete each sentence.

Logo

1. The (watermill, watermark) on this paper shows that it was manufactured by Spring Private Limited.
2. I do not believe in stories of ghosts or spirits; I only believe in (concede, concrete) reality.
3. I could not take his (rib, ribbing) anymore and decided to give him a piece of my mind.

Statutte

4. This collectable figurine is in (mint, mien) condition as it has never been displayed in the shop before.
5. I had to (scrap, scrape) all the burnt rice out from the bottom of the pot before washing it.
6. The (livery, lively) of the servants in Lord Stennant's household is green with gold trimmings.
7. The (spry, spruce) old man is fit and active in his age because he sticks to a rigorous exercise regime and a healthy diet.
8. To welcome his owner back home, my dog put its (forefront, forefoot) up on my chest and wagged its tail vigorously.
9. The landlord is going to (edict, edit, evict) him as he has not paid his rent for the past three months.
10. Ronald is willing to (enumerate, enunciate) a list of his favourite songs in ascending order if you ask him.
11. The critics wrote (laudable, laudatory) reviews about the bestseller in major newspapers.
12. Joanne can never forgive her husband for his repeated (fidelities, infidelities) and decides to go for a divorce.
13. The King is getting more and more senile in his (dotage, portage), it is imperative that the Crown Prince take over the throne quickly.
14. I like to pack my (sundries, sunders) such as my toiletries and under garments into one compartment in my suitcase.
15. China is (forging, foraging) ahead with its economic plans despite protests from the World Trade Organisation.

VOCAB quick CHECK

concede - v. finally admit or agree that something is true.

concrete - adj. specific, definite

dotage - n. the period of life in which a person is old and weak.

edict - n. an official order or proclamation.

enumerate - v. mention one by one.

enunciate - v. say or pronounce clearly.

evict - v. expel (someone) from a property, especially with the support of the law.

forage - v. search widely for food or provisions.

forefoot - n. each of the front feet of a four-footed animal.

forefront - n. the leading position or place.

forge - v. move forward gradually or steadily.

infidelity - n. the action or state of being sexually unfaithful.

laudable - adj. deserving praise and commendation.

laudatory - adj. expressing praise and commendation.

livery - n. a special uniform worn by a servant, an official.

mien - n. a person's look or manner.

mint - adj. in pristine condition; as new.

portage - n. the carrying of a boat or its cargo between two navigable waters.

rib - v. tease good-naturedly.

spruce - adj. neat and smart.

spry - adj. (especially of an old person) lively.

sunder - n. apart or into pieces.

sundry - n. various items not important enough be mentioned individually.

watermark - n. a faint design made in some paper during manufacture that is visible when held against the light and typically identifies the maker.

watermill - n. a mill worked by a waterwheel.

Challenge 1

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. revoke	*2. shuttle*	*3. inoculate*	*4. expiate*	*5. second*
6. indoctrinate	*7. elucidate*	*8. camouflage*	*9. refute*	*10. hoist*
11. whet	*12. beseech*	*13. outdo*	*14. nuzzle*	*15. hemmed*

1. Many people were more than willing to _____ my nomination for the popular Shufen as a candidate for the position of President of the Student Council.
2. He tried to _____ his evil intentions to wrest the family fortune by pretending to be very filial to the old dowager.
3. The bank decided to _____ their approval for Peter's credit card application after finding out that he had lied about his credit history.
4. Do not try to _____ Professor Anderson during an exchange of ideas as you will definitely lose to him!
5. Don't worry, we can easily _____ his argument with the information that we have gathered from the reference books.
6. Try using a pulley to _____ the box up to the top shelf as it will probably help you save a lot of effort.
7. I had to _____ between different relatives' houses on the first day of the Chinese New Year.
8. Praying is one way the church advocates as a way to _____ one's sins and wrongdoings.
9. The enemy _____ us in with their baffling manoeuvers and gave us no room for retreat.
10. During my younger days, I always saw my grandfather _____ the kitchen knives with a gray stone, and wondered what that heavy object was.
11. It is advisable to have this injection as the vaccination will _____ you from the bacteria.
12. "Can you please explain your points on the slide further so as to _____ your main argument?" my teacher requested.
13. The social workers tried to _____ the villagers with various kinds of contraceptive methods available in a bid to bring down the birth rate.
14. She is trying to _____ her father's forgiveness for playing truancy after her teacher reported her absence from school to him.
15. My baby brother who yearns affection from me, loves to _____ up to my side during bedtime.

Challenge 2

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. migrate	2. poach	3. convene	4. assuage	5. stammer
6. dally	7. accost	8. splice	9. abdicate	10. hover
11. indent	12. germinate	13. stanch	14. percolates	15. besmirch

1. The CAP Party decided to use a negative publicity campaign to _____ the reputation of the presidential candidate from the PAX Party.

2. It is quite frightening for the tourists as the gang of beggars _____ them as they emerge from the bus.

3. It is unethical to try to _____ employees from another company.

4. The shy man tends to _____ when he talks to girls, making it even more difficult for him to make friends with the opposite gender.

5. I watch patiently as coffee powder _____ through the coffee maker into the container below.

6. The victims of the earthquake had to _____ to a temporary camp after the disaster destroyed their homes.

7. "Please _____ your new paragraphs with a margin measuring one inch, or I will deduct marks from your essay!" the professor warned his class.

8. It is an amazing fact that when hummingbirds _____ over a flower, their wings are actually flapping at a few thousand times per minute.

9. The fisherman showed the children how to _____ the ends of two cords together to turn it into a longer, stronger rope.

10. The board is going to _____ an emergency meeting to discuss the rival company's hostile takeover.

11. The prince decided to _____ the throne in order to marry the commoner whom he loved.

12. I tried to _____ the flow of blood from my daughter's wound by pressing a bandage firmly over it.

13. Many people go to spas for massages so as to _____ their stress from work.

14. The Minister argued that the social structure needs to be more forgiving of failures in order for an entrepreneurial spirit to _____ among the young.

15. Tommy is a playboy who likes to _____ with other people's affections.

Challenge 3

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. stint	2. flout	3. elicit	4. intervene	5. wallow
6. hinder	7. flourish	8. sluice	9. ogle	10. localise
11. croon	12. trounce	13. manipulate	14. illuminate	15. wedge

1. Kelly is a conniving and cunning person who likes to _____ people to her own advantage.

2. The bride will not _____ on the expenses as she wants it to be a lavish and grand wedding.

3. You will need to _____ a sloping piece of wood under the stone before you are able to use a lever to hoist it.

4. We had to _____ out the garage with large amounts of water from the pipes in order to get rid of the strong smell of petrol in there.

5. Under the capable hands of Mr Wong, the new manager, business at the eatery is starting to _____.

6. The research indicates that four out of ten rear passengers _____ the law by not wearing their seat belts.

7. A lecherous man by nature, Mr Kong likes to _____ at scantily dressed women whenever he visits the nightclub.

8. The results of the recent scientific research will _____ the mystery of the creation of the Universe.

9. In World War II, soldiers tortured their prisoners of war in order to _____ information.

10. The French people were elated when France managed to _____ Germany by five goals to one in the final round of the competition.

11. "You should do something positive to get out of this situation, rather than just _____ in self-pity," Mr Lim advised the dejected Mike.

12. One of the tactics Patrick used when he was courting Becky was to _____ love songs to her every night.

13. Specially equipped aircraft were trying to _____ the oil slick and prevent it from spreading.

14. Smoking can _____ the ability of the heart and lungs to recover quickly from the effects of surgery.

15. The poor little girl tried to _____ in the argument between her parents but to no avail.

Challenge 4

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. parched *2. dislocated* *3. lolled* *4. besoughted* *5. inundated*
6. heckled *7. meted* *8. belittled* *9. lurched* *10. miffed*
11. loafed *12. stigmatised* *13. floored* *14. leered* *15. succumbed*

1. You should not have _____ the teenager for her lack of taste in clothes, as that would make her feel inferior.
2. Despite the doctor's best efforts at resuscitation, the patient drew his last breath and _____ to his injuries.
3. Many people felt that the punishment _____ out to the rapist for his heinous crime was too light.
4. The farm was _____ during the flood and many animals drowned in their pens, causing the farmer to incur heavy losses.
5. Many people who are lost in the desert often become _____ with thirst and heat exhaustion.
6. She was _____ at the audience's nonchalant attitude towards her performance and went off in a huff.
7. I had previously _____ my shoulder and was advised not to participate in any violent sports for sometime.
8. The disgusting old man _____ at me as I walked past, and started making slurping noises that made me shudder.
9. The rich man's son has never had a steady job and has basically _____ half his life away.
10. The old woman _____ forward to stabilise herself when the bus jerked.
11. The dog _____ its tongue and panted under the heat of the afternoon sun.
12. _____ by her baby daughter's incessant cries, the anxious mother accidentally scalded herself on the stove.
13. Everyone in class was _____ when the top scorer of the mathematics examination turned out to be Mary, a girl who did not even manage to pass her previous tests.
14. Instead of providing moral support, she was _____ and mocked at by her relatives for her failed marriage.
15. The woman in black came forward and once more _____ the mourner to forgive her.

Challenge 5

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. correlated *2. aggrandised* *3. corseted* *4. plummeted* *5. mitigated*
6. tittered *7. chortled* *8. aggravated* *9. nullified* *10. ousted*
11. adulated *12. pelted* *13. sniggered* *14. rebuked* *15. clinched*

1. The goal was _____ when the linesman raised his flag to indicate that the player was offside in the match.
2. Her stern expression tends to put people off, but her soft, persuasive voice _____ her harsh looks and made her less unapproachable.
3. "I can't believe that we actually _____ this major deal!" exclaimed my manager with excitement.
4. The celebrity _____ his ego and popularity by proclaiming that he was going to run for presidency.
5. His smug and arrogant opinion of himself _____ all of us so much that we decided to ignore him.
6. The notorious boy was sharply _____ for his misconduct by the headmistress, but he remained nonchalant.
7. The elected government was _____ by the generals who formed a military dictatorship instead.
8. The research revealed findings that a mother's smoking during pregnancy _____ with low birth weight in the baby.
9. Women used to be _____ by conservative costumes that restricted their movements.
10. Many young ladies _____ Simon because of his good looks and intelligence. In their eyes, he was their ideal life partner.
11. The children _____ and cheered upon the appearance of Chow Chow, the clown on the stage.
12. The students _____ at the teacher's torn pants when he turned around to write on the black board.
13. She _____ nervously and pretended to laugh the matter off in a bid to hide her real agitation.
14. The crowd _____ the bad actor with rotten vegetables and booed him off the stage for his poor performance.
15. The villain of the movie died when he _____ from a helicopter during his attempt to escape from the police.

Challenge 6

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. stipulated | *2. ensconced* | *3. accustomed* | *4. scrimped* | *5. remanded*
6. relinquished | *7. irrigated* | *8. inhumed* | *9. illustrated* | *10. flounced*
11. smothered | *12. scuttled* | *13. fazed* | *14. revoked* | *15. pronounced*

1. The pirates _____ the ship after looting it, letting the ship sink into the watery depths.
2. My grandmother who passed away three days ago, is going to be _____ today.
3. My dog happily _____ itself under the table and chewed contentedly at a piece of bone.
4. The landlord _____ that fifty per cent of the rental will have to be paid first as deposit in order to secure the room for the whole month.
5. After exchanging solemn vows, the newly-married couple was _____ by the vicar as "man and wife".
6. Mrs Brown _____ and saved for two years before she could afford to bring her children to Disneyland.
7. The authorities have _____ their original decision to allow development of this rural area into a shopping mall.
8. At the seminar, the speaker presented charts and graphs to _____ that the divorce rate has rocketed as women's financial dependence on men dropped.
9. The clowns _____ about on the sidewalk in their bright and colourful costumes in an effort to attract the passers-by.
10. Julia was not used to the American culture when she first migrated there, but she has since grew _____ to their ways of living.
11. No one is _____ with the sight of guns in America; it seems that the use of weapons is prevalent there.
12. Lush green fields, which have been _____ using water from the Nile, suddenly give way to the desert.
13. Daisies grow in short grassland and lawns where regular mowing prevents them from being _____ by taller vegetation.
14. Mr Morris _____ his responsibility as the sole breadwinner of the family so that he could look after his sons while his wife worked.
15. The accused had to be _____ in prison for a week until the court hearing commenced.

Challenge 7

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. venture | *2. recourse* | *3. niche* | *4. cannibalism* | *5. graft*
6. lassitude | *7. pleasantries* | *8. prosecutor* | *9. probe* | *10. peasantry*
11. avant garde | *12. heist* | *13. cannabis* | *14. platform* | *15. default*

1. The businessmen exchanged _____ over cocktails before proceeding to the lounge for their meeting.
2. Sick of the excesses of the ruling class and the poverty they were facing, the _____ decided to revolt.
3. The spendthrift ran up high credit card debts and had no choice but to _____ on his mortgage payments.
4. The sign read: Young children should not _____ too far out into the pool unless accompanied by an adult.
5. Drugs such as _____ are becoming increasingly popular among today's youth.
6. Some tribes in Africa used to practise _____ as part of their victory war ritual.
7. Many _____ art galleries like this one tend to be frequented by the flamboyant art students studying at the nearby university.
8. The lower classes used to be exploited by a corrupt judicial system that gave them no _____ to justice at all.
9. Fiona did not gain any sense of fulfilment in her corporate job until she found her _____ in teaching.
10. The gang decided to plan one last jewellery _____ before retiring to enjoy their ill-gotten gains.
11. The _____ will not be willing to settle this matter out of court as he will want to see justice being carried out on the vicious murderer.
12. Tommy walked to the edge of the diving _____ and bravely plunged into the pool below.
13. NASA unveiled plans to send another space _____ to Mars to discover if there is indeed life o the red planet.
14. His _____ and lackadaisical manner of doing things were the deciding factors that triggered h retrenchment.
15. Hardly any investment was pumped into this backward country, as the political system is lac with _____ and corruption.

Challenge 8

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. façade 2. plaintiff 3. plague 4. defendant 5. equanimity
6. host 7. hydroponics 8. helm 9. matinee 10. veneer
11. slogan 12. taboo 13. reams 14. latitude 15. plaque

1. You will need to understand the notions of longitude and _____ before you can understand the concept of the global positioning system.

2. We have bought tickets for the _____ performance of the play and have to be seated by 2 pm.

3. Zoe is unable to regain her _____ after the tragic death of her fiance on her wedding day two years ago.

4. The top salesman in the company was given a _____ as an acknowledgment of his good performance.

5. Tourists are extremely fond of taking pictures of the museum's east _____ as it faces the west and looks beautiful during sunset.

6. The _____ of sophistication that Lady Darlington's expensive clothes lent her could not dissimulate her lower class background.

7. The _____ of locusts descended on the fields and totally devastated this year's crops.

8. With the astute Jonathan Kwek taking the _____ at the Health Ministry, we will have nothing to fear from the current bird flu epidemic.

9. The _____ of the new advertising campaign for the Bubbles Beer Company is "Bubbles! the best beer in the world".

10. The _____ is trying to sue the corporation for a million dollars in damages for grievous injury caused by their defective products.

11. Like all living things, parasites need to find a living _____ to survive and reproduce.

12. There are many people who believe that _____ is a cleaner and more efficient method of agriculture.

13. The _____ was so poor that he could not afford to hire a lawyer to defend him in court.

14. Everyone in the company needs to do their part to save paper, for we actually used up ten _____ of paper just last month alone!

15. Incest is a _____ as most societies do not approve of sexual activity between people who are closely related.

Challenge 9

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. fortitude 2. exigencies 3. negligence 4. fawn 5. injunction
6. incumbent 7. convoy 8. tracts 9. conjunction 10. encampment
11. expatriates 12. Olympus 13. benchmark 14. precedent 15. babble

1. The _____ President has a loyal base of supporters and will not be easily ousted from the government.

2. The farmer has divided his land into three _____ for his three sons, so that they can support themselves with the harvests from the fields.

3. Your unorthodox action of having mothers bring their children to work definitely sets a _____ in this conservative company.

4. He may be crippled but I admire him for his _____ to complete the half marathon with his hands.

5. A good leader must be prepared to deal with any _____ that come along and to react and adapt to new situations.

6. Please get your children to stop their _____ as I am trying to concentrate on my revision here.

7. With adequate supply of housing on the market, you will hardly see a/an _____ of flat buyers who will queue overnight for their dream homes.

8. The prosecutor was able to prove that the baby had died due to the babysitter's _____.

9. There are many _____ in Singapore who fell in love with the garden city and settled in the country.

10. The court issued an _____ against the stalker, prohibiting him from being within fifty metres of the actress after she reported him to the police.

11. The _____ of the Sun, Moon and Earth is a rare astronomical occurrence that should not be missed.

12. The corporate planning division will be setting a new _____ in customer service to improve the efficiency of the oragnisation.

13. In Greek mythology, the Gods lived atop Mount _____ and led an ethereal existence.

14. Whenever the President is out to grace public functions, he is accompanied by a _____ of bodyguards without fail.

15. The cartoon of "Bambi the _____" is extremely popular and can be found on many marketing merchandise.

Challenge 10

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. nap	*2. depot*	*3. mufflers*	*4. filly*	*5. disquiet*
6. teetotaller	*7. envoy*	*8. blaze*	*9. indentures*	*10. blitz*
11. pilgrimage	*12. impasse*	*13. nape*	*14. malevolence*	*15. muff*

1. The Chinese _____ signed a ground-breaking trade treaty that waived import duties for Chinese footwear and medicine.

2. It is not unusual to find a _____ of raised cotton from the old T-shirt after numerous washings.

3. Mindy tucked her hands into her fur _____ to keep them warm in the chilly weather as she made her way to the library.

4. Cassandra gently stroked the _____ of her baby's neck and caressed it with affection.

5. The bus _____ was already filled with people even before the bus was due to arrive.

6. The young _____ has never had a rider and needs to be trained before the kids can try riding him around the farm.

7. The public relations company carried out a very successful advertising _____ that saw numerous advertisements being screened constantly on television and newspapers over the past few days.

8. She was filled with _____ when she realised that her front door was ajar and wondered if she should step into the empty house.

9. Jean was filled with _____ and spite when she realised that her classmate had scored better than her in the test.

10. The National Day celebrations climaxed in a _____ of colour as a magnificent fireworks display exploded across the night sky.

11. The young men signed his _____ and started his apprenticeship with the tailor once he reached the age of fifteen.

2. We had reached an _____ in our talks, as neither of us were willing to budge and give in.

3. Making a _____ in one's lifetime is one of the pillars of Islam.

. Mr Ong is a _____ and he opposes strictly to the drinking of alcohol.

. The traffic police issued a new rule informing all motorists [illegible] _____ on their exhaust pipes in a bid to reduce the level of noise pollution in the city.

Challenge 11

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. hackles	*2. declination*	*3. lobotomy*	*4. implication*	*5. etchings*
6. wisp	*7. niche*	*8. decadence*	*9. deforestation*	*10. canker*
11. executor	*12. degeneration*	*13. negligence*	*14. roulette*	*15. hike*

1. A popular game in casinos is _____ where stakes are placed on the number at which a spinning ball lands.

2. The villain in the novel ended having a _____ when the evil doctor decided to dissect a certain part of the latter's brain.

3. Many people were unhappy with the unexpected tax _____ after the Liberal Party was voted into power.

4. The dog growled menacingly at the postman and started to raise its _____ in a ferocious manner.

5. If David is found guilty, the logical _____ is that you, as his supervisor, knew of his crimes and sanctioned them.

6. Her financial _____ towards insolvency was not surprising to those who knew her, as they had always thought that she was spending beyond her means.

7. Mr Wong appointed his brother to be the _____ of his estate in his will.

8. Many of the older generation felt that the condoning of pre-marital sexual relations was a sign of moral _____ of the new age.

9. The harem was decorated with lush opulent fabrics that gave one a sense of _____ and self-indulgent pleasure.

10. A _____ of smoke came from one of the kitchen windows and drifted out from the house to the garden.

11. This shop serves a very _____ market as they sell only New Age Music albums and nothing else.

12. The babysitter's _____ caused the baby boy to fall from the cradle and as a result, fractured his arm.

13. Poverty has often been described as a _____ that eats away at the heart of society.

14. _____ is a very harmful process as it causes the erosion of soil that may lead to landslides, endangering the lives of the villagers nearby.

15. The artist made many _____ of medieval city scenes on wooden panels, which has fortunately been well preserved, allowing us a glimpse of people in the olden days.

Challenge 12

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. dispensary
2. admonitions
3. silhouette
4. pinch
5. synergy
6. halogen
7. amber
8. derivation
9. paraphernalia
10. throttle
11. serendipity
12. depository
13. qualms
14. reverberations
15. dividends

1. Do not take your parents' gentle reproofs and _____ to heart as they are for your own good.

2. The popular actress attributed her stardom to a stroke of _____ when she was discovered by an agency three months before.

3. Rest assured that all of the important documents have been left in a _____ at the local bank for safe-keeping.

4. Please proceed to the _____ to pick up the medicine that the doctor has prescribed for you.

5. The _____ of the mathematical formula is too abstract and complicated for a young student to understand.

6. It is necessary to pay taxes on income earned from receiving _____ as a shareholder of a company.

7. The semi-precious material, _____ is actually not a stone as many people think, but a hardened fossilised resin.

8. Larry finds it hard to resume work at full _____ after taking a one month hiatus.

9. "These _____ lamps tend to last longer than ordinary light bulbs and are cheaper as well," the salesman told my mother enthusiastically.

10. You will not feel the _____ of splurging your parents' money on these branded goods unless you start working and know how difficult it is to earn money.

11. Teamwork at its best usually results in a _____ that can be very productive.

12. Adrian is an avid photographer who is fully equipped with _____ such as focal lenses and chemical solutions in his dark room.

3. The sound effects of the movie was astounding - _____ of the gunshot fired by the protagonist were so real that we thought it took place in the cinema itself.

. The artist sketched out the _____ of the model in front of him before filling in the colours on his canvas.

Timmy is a compulsive liar who has no _____ at all about distorting the facts.

Challenge 13

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. relics
2. confetti
3. disposition
4. laurels
5. ordnances
6. launderette
7. stoic
8. prowess
9. integrity
10. obliqueness
11. vehemence
12. scull
13. dynamics
14. bouts
15. affinity

1. The _____ of the property under the terms of the will is in favour of the younger daughter, not the wife.

2. As a result of the passenger's _____ in his instructions, the taxi driver ended up driving in the wrong direction.

3. As the newly-wed couple came out from the church, they were greeted by well-wishers who showered them with _____.

4. Mrs Lee felt a strong _____ for Michael when she first visited the little boy at the orphanage and decided to adopt him as her own child.

5. Ronald tends to drink heavily when he suffers from _____ of depression.

6. The old machines are _____ of a bygone age; they are no longer useful for the modern world.

7. Through team-building exercises, the members were able to build stronger working relationships with one another and foster better group _____.

8. Keen to preserve her _____ as a professional actress, Charlotte declined several offers to act in pornographic films.

9. The actors performed very well, but surely the _____ must go to the director who made the play a success.

10. Frederick visits the _____ every week where his soiled clothes can be cleaned by the washing machines there.

11. The _____ used during World War II were displayed in the museum for memorial purposes.

12. Undergraduates in this college are known for their _____ in sports rather than their academic achievements.

13. To escape, Captain Jack and his sailors worked the _____ to get the boat moving.

14. Hilary argued with such _____ against the proposal that the other team members decided to abandon it.

15. Little Alice was a _____ girl; she did not even wail when she was trapped in the burning building

Challenge 14

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. slump
2. nozzle
3. caviar
4. spate
5. compere
6. alibi
7. odyssey
8. smorgasbord
9. libel
10. juxtaposition
11. ditty
12. comatose
13. aliases
14. palm
15. cavalier

1. The _____ of the two sisters only emphasized the beauty of the elder girl.
2. Many people consider _____ a delicacy and it is usually one of the most expensive dishes in restaurants.
3. He has always been a very _____ young man who never takes anything or anyone seriously.
4. Visitors thronged their way to the exhibition hall for the _____ of attractive travel packages offered by the various travel agencies.
5. You need to twist the _____ in a clockwise direction to allow water to gush from the hose.
6. The celebrity is going to sue the newspaper for _____ as they had made untrue and defamatory statements against her.
7. The recent _____ of violent crimes against women is worrying the government and they have put in place measures to caution women from going out alone after dark.
8. The victim of the hit and run accident has been in _____ for years and there seems to be no chance of him recovering in the near future.
9. The Chinese classical novel, "Journey to the West" depicts a monk's spiritual _____ with his disciples to look for Buddhist scriptures in India.
10. The detective ruled out the possibility of Mr Lim having committed the crime as he had an _____.
11. The criminal had many forged passports with different _____ that he used whenever he wanted to flee to another country.
12. The gentle swaying of the _____ trees in the breeze soon lulled me to sleep on the hammock.
13. The disfigured woman was very upset when the children came up with a _____ to mock her ugly face.
14. The _____ created much anticipation among the audience before announcing the winner of the singing competition.
15. The economy is in a _____ right now and it is very difficult for new graduates to get jobs.

Challenge 15

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. prerequisite
2. prerogative
3. repulsion
4. lassitude
5. kindle
6. kindred
7. farrier
8. enormity
9. brazier
10. fissure
11. usurers
12. synthesis
13. philanthropy
14. apostles
15. stiletto

1. The famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci, "The Last Supper", depicts Christ dining with his _____.
2. It is virtually impossible to find a _____ nowadays as many farms have stopped using horses to plough the land, thereby eliminating the need to provide shoes for horses.
3. Proficiency in the English language is a _____ for entry into the local junior colleges.
4. The _____ and wickedness of his crime did not strike him until he met the grieving daughter of the dead victim, and decided to give himself up to the police.
5. This fusion dish is a _____ of Thai and Japanese cultures, incorporating the spicy flavours of Thai food with the meticulous presentation of Japanese cuisine.
6. The President may use his _____ to pardon the guilty man's death sentence.
7. After the recent earthquake, a huge _____ measuring 5 kilometres long and 3 metres wide was discovered at the bottom of the sea.
8. Her drug-taking caused her to feel lethargic and to view life and work with _____ and boredom.
9. The millionaire believes in _____ and the sharing of his wealth with others who are less fortunate than him.
10. The woodcutter collected small pieces of wood to use as _____ for the fire.
11. "My _____ tends to share the family qualities of impulsiveness," the baron joked.
12. The assassin had concealed a small _____ in the sleeve of his coat and was getting ready to stab the King.
13. "We use the term 'loan sharks' to describe _____, people who lend out money at exorbitant rates," the Singaporean explained to her American friend.
14. A _____ of hot coals was placed in our rooms to keep us warm when the central heating in the hotel broke down.
15. She stared at the cockroaches in her drawer with _____ but did nothing to eradicate them.

Challenge 16

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. deluge
2. stockade
3. reversion
4. proviso
5. referral
6. rhapsodies
7. myriad
8. gaffe
9. bolts
10. moat
11. notion
12. caret
13. jeopardy
14. sommelier
15. socialites

1. On hearing the sirens of police cars approaching, the burglar _____ for the door as fast as he could.
2. I discovered that a _____ of virus-carrying emails had flooded my inbox when I switched on my computer this morning.
3. A _____, an expert in tasting wines, was invited to be a critic at the wine fair.
4. "You may not know it yet, but you will be in great _____ and your life will be in danger," the gypsy warned the innocent girl.
5. The waitress made a _____ when she asked the well-known vegetarian politician if he wanted the chicken sandwich.
6. The soldiers set up a _____ of sandbags so that any vehicles going that way would have to stop and pass for inspection.
7. The castle was protected by a _____ that surrounded it, and any invader would have to cross the river of water to reach the castle.
8. It was thanks to Joyce's _____ that Michelle was able to gain employment in this multi-national company.
9. I have a _____ that Zoe and Fann are no longer friends as they don't look each other in the eye when they meet in public.
10. This magazine contains endless glossy pictures of celebrities and _____ who attend balls and other prominent gatherings.
11. The new procedures are seen as a _____ to old, inefficient ways of working.
12. Mr Pan is in total _____ on hearing that his wife has given birth to twin daughters.
13. Herbert used a _____ to indicate where the missing sentence should have been.
14. Since the tourism boom, a _____ of hotels and bars are opening up along the coastline.
15. Betty agreed to go to the movies with me with the _____ that I'll pay for the tickets and escort her home afterwards.

Challenge 17

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. bereaved
2. nascent
3. mollified
4. slim
5. nasal
6. ephemeral
7. rank
8. saturated
9. perplexed
10. delicate
11. dour
12. estranged
13. indomitable
14. dire
15. pin-striped

1. Do not get your hopes up too high as we only have a _____ chance of winning this competition.
2. She has a very _____ constitution and cannot take part in vigorous exercises. Otherwise her body may not be able to take it.
3. The _____ husband and wife refused to acknowledge each other's presence when they met at a party thrown by a mutual friend.
4. The _____ family tried to avoid the media spotlight on their daughter's horrendous death at the hands of a serial killer.
5. The businessman was attired in a smart _____ suit with a matching tie and shiny black branded shoes.
6. The industry is already _____ and there is no space for another big player to enter the market.
7. His _____ nature accounts for his positive outlook in life despite the numerous setbacks he faced over the years.
8. I am _____ by his hostility towards me as I do not think I have ever done him any disservice.
9. The _____ semi-conductor industry gave the economy a big boost this year.
10. She has an unpleasant and high pitched _____ voice that always makes her sound like she is speaking through her nose.
11. Liking a person based on their looks is superficial and only _____ ; it seldom lasts.
12. Johnny is in _____ straits after having borrowed money from loan sharks at alarming interest rates.
13. I have never seen the _____ old man laugh once ever since I knew him!
14. The workers were not _____ by the negligible increase in pay that the company had doled out to them in a bid to curb their discontent with the management.
15. The detective sniffed the air cautiously, and from the _____ odour of stale cigarettes remaining in the room, he was able to deduce that the murderer was a heavy smoker.

Challenge 18

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. hydraulic	*2. organic*	*3. electoral*	*4. rhythmic*	*5. facetious*
6. fallacious	*7. elocutionary*	*8. factious*	*9. sententious*	*10. congenital*
11. sentient	*12. congenial*	*13. waning*	*14. medieval*	*15. sautéed*

1. Mankind has always dreamt of building _____ machines that are able to duplicate human consciousness and thought processes.
2. The rude and _____ girl was disliked by all her peers for her ill-timed and inappropriate jokes in class.
3. Nobody ever thought that the _____ couple would ever survive a year of marriage but their marriage turned out to be a blissful one that lasted twenty years.
4. Nobody could stand the _____ young man as he was always trying to preach to the others about their wrongdoings.
5. One look at the dish and the gourmet knows that the _____ vegetables were overcooked and that they would taste bland.
6. The dusky rays of the _____ sun added the perfect touch of romance to the scene.
7. _____ food is usually preferred by those who want to eat healthily and do not mind the higher cost.
8. Car brakes are usually operated by a _____ mechanism that generates pressure to the master cylinder, which causes the car to slow down.
9. The _____ raps on the drum soon lulled me into a trance and I began to dance wildly.
10. The _____ building looks so worn down because it has been around since 1500 AD, and has much historical value.
11. Your argument will never get pass the judge because of its _____ reasoning.
12. I have never liked the dictator's _____ style as I find it too bombastic and lacking in real substance.
13. Certain _____ diseases cannot be easily detected when the baby is still in the mother's womb.
14. Jane has a very sympathetic and _____ character that makes her well qualified to be a counsellor.
15. Failure to exercise your _____ rights, such as turning up to vote during elections, could result in the forfeiture of these privileges.

Challenge 19

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. buxom	*2. enamoured*	*3. philatelic*	*4. pliable*	*5. adroit*
6. prepossessing	*7. assiduous*	*8. explicated*	*9. coltish*	*10. malignant*
11. ambient	*12. philanthropic*	*13. slovenly*	*14. innocuous*	*15. parsimonious*

1. He is always much liked by all the teachers because he is an industrious and _____ boy.
2. Even though no dress code was stated on the invitation card, I decided to play safe and wear a/an _____ little black dress to the party.
3. His lawyer advised him to give a/an _____ account of what happened that tragic night, or face going to jail for a crime he did not commit.
4. Because of her _____ figure, Margaret likes to dress in tight fitting clothes when she goes out so as to attract the admiration of men and the envy of other women.
5. It is a well-known fact among the waitresses that Mr Scrooge is _____ with his tips whenever he visits the pub.
6. Sally was devastated when the doctors told her that her tumour was _____ and that she had only six more months to live.
7. Isabelle is so _____ of the new boy in class that she found it very difficult to concentrate on what the teacher was saying.
8. It is not surprising to catch Larry putting a spider in his friend's bag as he is a very _____ boy who loves to play pranks on everyone.
9. The _____ surroundings of lush green woods and rolling hills soothed Susan's troubled mind.
10. That rod is _____ as it is made of a soft material that can be bent into many different shapes.
11. The Singapore _____ Museum is having a new exhibition on stamps featuring Queen Elizabeth this month.
12. Everyone was impressed with the _____ young interviewee who strode confidently into the meeting room and shook everyone firmly by their hands.
13. What a _____ waitress with her dirty apron and unkempt hair! I don't want her to serve me.
14. The orphanage was extremely grateful when it received the _____ donation of half a million dollars from the businessman for its refurbishment.
15. Look at that _____ young girl! She makes it look effortless climbing that ten-metre pole.

Challenge 20

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. kid
2. plush
3. contiguous
4. benign
5. insurmountable
6. Olympian
7. rambling
8. rhetoric
9. negligent
10. impoverished
11. smitten
12. torpid
13. blasé
14. gallivanting
15. fiscal

1. The new swimming complex boasts an _____ -sized swimming pool and other state of the art sports facilities.
2. Due to his fragile and volatile temperament, club officials know that this brilliant young footballer has to be handled with _____ gloves.
3. Most people no longer find dyed blonde hair a shock and in fact are quite _____ about it.
4. The Minister for Finance will be reporting on this year's _____ policies at the parliamentary meeting tonight.
5. Terry was relieved when he found out that his cancer was _____ and that he had a chance of a complete recovery.
6. When festivals are _____, the shopping malls are usually packed with housewives.
7. The babysitter was found to be _____ and thus, responsible for the baby's death by drowning.
8. I have never seen my _____ neighbours unhappy before even though they are always short of cash.
9. I thought I heard footsteps behind me when I was lying on my bed in a _____ and drowsy state, but it turned out to be only my dog.
10. I fell for the red _____ velvet sofa set the minute i stepped into the furniture store.
11. This is the only school in Singapore that places emphasis on students learning the art of _____ persuasive public speaking.
12. One look at Romeo's dazed expression and I could tell he was already _____ with love for Juliet.
13. "Instead of staying home to study, these naughty boys choose to spend their afternoons _____ in a mall!" the teacher shook her head and sighed.
14. The poet loves _____ in the woods behind her house, exploring hidden tracks barefooted and in quiet solitude.
15. These difficulties may be _____ now but they can be overcomed with our perseverance.

Challenge 21

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. insidious
2. pillaging
3. inextricable
4. vascular
5. existential
6. extraterrestrial
7. acid
8. rustic
9. contiguous
10. extenuating
11. hallucinatory
12. receding
13. arid
14. amorous
15. apprehensive

1. It is not acceptable for him to have _____ feelings for his brother's girlfriend.
2. Clinical studies have shown that obesity is linked to _____ diseases such as heart attacks and strokes.
3. The _____ row of houses along this street all look alike as they had been built by the same developer.
4. He was _____ about climbing the rock wall as he was scared of heights and was afraid of falling.
5. As the accused had been provoked, the jury felt that the sentence should be reduced in view of the _____ circumstances.
6. Cancer is an _____ disease that takes its toll on the victim over many years of suffering and pain.
7. Certain drugs have a _____ effect that can cause people to do dangerous things, and may result in their deaths.
8. The _____ peasants were ill at ease when they went up to the grand manor to meet the duke.
9. There were pages of information from the report, but the facts were virtually _____ from the irrelevant details.
10. The dead body that had been buried under the sand was soon uncovered by the _____ tide.
11. As an environmentalist, I cannot stand people who think nothing of _____ Mother Earth's natural resources.
12. When scientists explored the Sahara Desert, they discovered that the _____ landscape was surprisingly full of life and that animals were able to survive there.
13. "Do you really think that I will not win the competition?" she arched her eyebrows and asked in an _____ tone.
14. Movies with _____ themes are more difficult to market as the subject matter can be quite abstract for audiences more used to Hollywood blockbusters.
15. There are many people who believe in _____ life forms on other planets in the Universe.

Challenge 22

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. tactical
2. acrid
3. scrawling
4. procrastinating
5. refractory
6. terrestrial
7. sniveling
8. grisly
9. ghastly
10. rudimentary
11. tacit
12. turreted
13. chafing
14. staunch
15. sprawling

1. The water in the well tasted _____ and stale and we all spat it out after the first sip.
2. The _____ young man is very loyal to his friends and will never, ever betray them.
3. You have only acquired the _____ knowledge of this subject. There is much more that you need to learn and master.
4. The reporter was filled with horror at the sight of the _____ car accident and had to leave the scene without completing her assignment.
5. You look pale and _____, almost as if you had just seen a ghost!
6. The teenager and his parents reached a _____ agreement that allowed him to attend the late night concert.
7. "Tom! Stop _____ and start studying for your examinations. Otherwise you will no chance of getting into college." Mrs Saunders yelled at her son.
8. The move to deploy troops along the border is a _____ one made by the government to warn their aggressive neighbour that they will not give up without a fight.
9. His father had warned him of the consequences and it is pointless for him to go _____ to him now that his investments have failed.
10. The teacher punished the student after she found him _____ obscenities on the blackboard.
11. The old _____ house on the hilltop is a perfect setting for our new horror show as it looks so forlorn and gloomy.
12. Food is usually served in a _____ dish during buffets so that the dishes stay fresh for a long time.
13. Scotland, with its medieval castles and _____ walls, is a popular choice of destination among tourists.
14. This 'live' television programme is brought to us via satellite and not by broadcast from _____ stations.
15. "My son is a stubborn and _____ young man who does not listen to anyone else's opinion," the lady warned her prospective daughter-in-law.

Challenge 23

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. bizarre
2. swingeing
3. intractable
4. revolting
5. signatory
6. scriptural
7. mooning
8. lyrical
9. sublime
10. strait-laced
11. barren
12. redundant
13. munificent
14. lusty
15. braised

1. Being a _____ lady, my mother would never approve of me cohabitating with my boyfriend.
2. I love _____ duck that has been stewed in soya sauce for hours till the meat is tender.
3. The King is a benevolent and _____ ruler who shares the country's wealth with his people.
4. The scientist could not explain the _____ occurrence of the flying furniture when they visited the haunted house.
5. Diego Maradona is generally aknowledged as having the most _____ skills of all footballers.
6. Many people do not like the sullen _____ boy who reacts fiercely to anyone who approaches him.
7. No worker would want to hear the _____ news of retrenchment but they had to accept the reality in these bad economic times.
8. My wife was shocked when she found out that she was _____ and would never be able to conceive.
9. "Stop _____ about the place and make yourself useful for once!" Jack's mother scolded her son who sat day-dreaming by the side of the window.
10. This book contains _____ descriptions expressing the feelings and sentiments of the author's childhood.
11. The workers were furious upon learning that they had been retrenched and made _____ by the management of the company.
12. After several hours of waiting, Mr Ang finally heard the _____ cry of his newborn baby from the operating theatre.
13. Thomas challenged his opponents to support their case with _____ evidence instead of merely arguing.
14. The _____ states have agreed to talks during the summit that they will reduce their stockpile of nuclear weapons.
15. Lina decides to take a look in the kitchen because there was a _____ smell of rotten food there

Challenge 24

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. sensational 2. voracious 3. meandering 4. inequitable 5. obnoxious
6. placid 7. molten 8. voluble 9. insubordinate 10. sombre
11. primordial 12. indelible 13. voyeuristic 14. journalistic 15. rhetorical

1. How far the candidate for election will be able to translate his _____ campaign into action remains to be seen.
2. There was a _____ atmosphere at the wake; all the people who attended it were dressed in dark clothing.
3. A confident and _____ speaker, Patrick approached each subject with unfailing enthusiasm.
4. The sex scandal was a _____ piece of news that shocked the country and did considerable damage to the politician's reputation.
5. The fashion industry has a _____ appetite for constant novelty; no design lasts longer than three months.
6. The film was criticised strongly for its _____ cinematography that portrayed the prostitutes in a flattering and shadowy light.
7. This musical album is _____ evidence that Ronald remains the best jazz singer of our time.
8. The current tax system is so _____, and the disparities between the rich and poor are so great, that it is clearly unjust.
9. The _____ river runs through the woods and cascades to a waterfall at the hills yonder.
10. The _____ child was punished severely by the headmaster for refusing to abide by the regulations of the boarding school.
11. There has been a lot of debate recently about the decline of _____ standard in the popular press.
12. The _____ steel was mixed with other substances in the manufacturing plant.
13. On a warm and sunny day, the waters looked so _____ that it was hard to imagine that it could be dangerous.
14. The planet Jupiter contains large amounts of the _____ gas and dust out of which the solar system was formed.
15. Gibson has an _____ habit of digging his nose in public; everybody stays away from him whenever he does that.

Challenge 25

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided.

1. provisionally 2. theoretically 3. formidably 4. stereotypically 5. lavishly
6. sporadically 7. ornately 8. immaculately 9. irretrievably 10. balefully
11. smack 12. inexplicably 13. proverbially 14. resplendently 15. unduly

1. I am shocked that your room is _____ clean and tidy for I had thought that bachelor pads would be typically messy and dirty.
2. The Austrian Queen had a set of chinaware _____ decorated with an elegant fringe of gold leaves and roses.
3. Roy should not worry _____ about the interview as he is well-qualified for the job.
4. My cat looked _____ and miserably at me when I took her to the vet for injections.
5. The drunk Larry wasn't looking where he was going and walked _____ into the lamppost.
6. The computers in the bank functioned in a bizarre manner, and began depositing money _____ into wrong accounts.
7. The country's ecosystem will be _____ damaged if the government continues to behave irresponsibly by cutting down too many trees.
8. The palace was _____ decorated with overhanging chandeliers, antique paintings and plush couches for guests to rest on.
9. Despite deploying his huge army _____, the King Darius of Persia was still comprehensively defeated by Alexander the Great's smaller force.
10. Club members have _____ agreed to the changes, which will not become permanent until they have seen the full report.
11. Don't be surprised if you receive a stern look from the locals; they are _____ hostile to strangers.
12. The gentleman was _____ dressed in a soft grey three-piece suit and red silk cravat at the social occasion.
13. According to geologists, the volcanoes have been erupting _____ over the last ten years.
14. Many Asian actors are frustrated in Hollywood because they are always _____ cast as kung fu masters.
15. _____, this machine is supposed to work after all the wires have been connected, but it still fails to function.

Challenge 1

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions. (The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	Remember to be **considerate** when you handle issues of a sensitive nature.	tactful	indiscreet
2.	Being a volunteer may not bring monetary rewards, but the **intangible** benefits are aplenty.	abstract	concrete
3.	Having lost the battle, the **vanquished** army surrendered.	defeated	victorious
4.	Several ships have capsized under **turbulent** waters during the storm.	rough	peaceful
5.	I can see the **undulating** hills of the countryside despite the mist.	gentle	plain
6.	A cynical person by nature, Jasmine often uses words that are **sardonic**.	unk______	ple______
7.	Mrs Tan is very **punctilious** about cleanliness, so make sure you tidy up your room before she comes in.	par______	eas______
8.	I can tell Susie was in a bad mood. She was **brusque** over the phone.	hos______	pol______
9.	No **equivocal** reply is accepted. The defendant has to answer yes or no.	con______	cle______
10.	The villagers did not survive the **calamity** of the flood. All their houses were also destroyed.	mis______	ble______
11.	Be prudent with your savings, or you will regret it later in life.	wis______	bra______
12.	Signs should be displayed **prominently** so that everyone can see them.	not______	obs______
13.	Don't raise a **racket** here! The students are taking a test.	com______	pea______
14.	There is no longer any **rancour** between him and his wife as they have patched up.	bit______	kin______
15.	The murderer, armed with a dagger, looks so devilish with his **glistening** eyes.	gle______	dul______

Challenge 2

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions. (The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	The stock prices have been moving **erratically** these days.	irr______	ste______
2.	He's a real **dunce**! He can't seem to get anything right.	idi______	gen______
3.	Christmas is a time of **mirth** and cheer when everyone is in a thanksgiving mood.	gai______	mel______
4.	He is a **magnanimous** man. He never takes unkind words to heart.	big______	mea______
5.	Norman's manager **scorned** at his proposal during the meeting.	reb______	enc______
6.	The King was a **ruthless** King. Those who opposed him were executed.	cru______	com______
7.	Andy's mind was in a **torpid** state after getting drunk. He could not think straight.	ina______	liv______
8.	Barry leads a **staid** life. He goes home straight after work and does not socialise with any friends.	mon______	exc______
9.	Shirley acts like a **docile** lamb in her boyfriend's presence.	sub______	wil______
10.	Bernard is a **self-effacing** man. He hardly draws attention to himself.	mod______	arr______
11.	The famine is causing an **exodus** of villagers fleeing from the affected area.	dep______	inf______
12.	Timothy felt it **incumbent** on him to raise the subject at the meeting.	nec______	dis______
13.	The manager has great responsibilities and needs to make **judicious** decisions for the company.	cal______	unt______
14.	Look at that **outlandish** outfit you're wearing! You will look ridiculous if you are dressed like that at a formal meeting.	fla______	pla______
15.	The members of the team were **jubilant** after their victory in the competition.	ela______	mou______

Challenge 3

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The Emperor looks **ludicrous** without any clothes on.	rid______	rea______
2. Lina was trying to tell me her secret in private, but I could not make out anything from her **hushed** voice.	ina______	noi______
3. The value of gold **augmented** during the war as prices of currencies fell.	rai______	dec______
4. During this trip, I experienced the **austerities** of life in India.	dis______	lux______
5. The young man was blinded by **avarice** in the materialistic world.	gre______	uns______
6. Their marriage failed due to lack of **candour** between them.	tru______	dis______
7. As I did not have time, I merely gave an **extemporaneous** speech on the spot.	unp______	pla______
8. "Stop being **faddy** with what you eat," my mother chided my younger brother during dinner.	cho______	eas______
9. What had happened was definitely **contrived** by the sly David.	man______	unp______
10. This is a much **coveted** post that everybody longs for. You will regret it if you give it up.	sou______	und______
11. The plot and characters in the play are so **intertwined** that it is difficult to guess who the murderer is.	twi______	unr______
12. Danny was always making **furtive** phone calls when his boss was not around.	sec______	ope______
3. The climb up to the peak of the mountain is an **arduous** one that takes effort and determination.	tir______	eff______
4. Samuel, the most **prolific** songwriter of his generation, won numerous awards in his time.	pro______	ine______
5. He claims that he knows everybody in this industry, but most of his contacts are **meretricious**.	sup______	rea______

Challenge 4

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The stench was so **repugnant** that everybody left the room.	unp______	all______
2. He reacted with remarkable **equanimity** when he learnt about his illness.	cal______	dis______
3. Fiona stared at the deep **fathomless** blue ocean and thought about her life.	inf______	mea______
4. The class differences in some countries are **inequitable**. Only the rich get to enjoy certain privileges.	unj______	fai______
5. The **inexorable** flames brought the house down in less than half an hour.	uns______	con______
6. I could sense his **malevolent** stare as I walked past him.	evi______	har______
7. Jolyn was diagnosed with a **malignant** tumor in her brain. She has only a month to live.	dea______	ben______
8. Trying to persuade Danny to give in is almost an **onerous** task.	ins______	eff______
9. Hady's **rakish** behaviour deserves to be condemned. He should not treat his family members in this way.	dis______	acc______
10. Alice is still learning. Her grasp of the subject is **rudimentary**.	ele______	dev______
11. The virus has to be **annihilated** completely to stop the epidemic from spreading.	des______	pre______
12. My grandfather is able to appreciate all the **archaic** relics in the museum.	anc______	mod______
13. The **beleaguered** healthcare workers were working around the clock in nursing patients.	dis______	idl______
14. Edward's **licentious** behaviour is condemned by everyone. He should not be fooling around when he is married.	imm______	cha______
15. Mr Toh became a **reticent** man after his wife passed away and he has been mourning for her absence since then.	res______	viv______

Challenge 5

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	Belinda's mother **admonished** her for returning home late.	*dis*______	*enc*______
2.	Martin went down on his knees and **beseeched** Jane to marry him.	*beg*______	*dem*______
3.	We knew that all hope was lost from Angela's **crestfallen** face.	*dis*______	*ela*______
4.	Being a top notch soccer player, Ronald caught the ball **deftly** from his teammate.	*ski*______	*clu*______
5.	The dog looked at me with **doleful** eyes, pleading me to take him home.	*mis*______	*joy*______
6.	He fell out with his parents long ago. Their ties are **estranged** now.	*bro*______	*con*______
7.	Having no respect for Mr Lin, she is always making **pejorative** remarks about him.	*der*______	*app*______
8.	The police suspected something amiss because of the **discrepancy** in John's statement.	*dif*______	*cor*______
9.	Zoe is always **immaculate** in her dressing and will not tolerate shoddiness.	*cle*______	*unt*______
10.	Larry was **exasperated** by the turn of events. He had different plans before this.	*ann*______	*app*______
11.	Nobody takes much notice of George because he tends to be **garrulous** and does not stop talking.	*tal*______	*tac*______
12.	The night party was becoming too **raucous** for the neighbours.	*noi*______	*mel*______
13.	The room was **illuminated** by a thousand candles.	*bri*______	*dar*______
14.	I am drawn to the **intriguing** story line of the drama and will watch it when it screens on television.	*cap*______	*uni*______
15.	Nobody likes to listen to long **insipid** speeches.	*dul*______	*eng*______

Challenge 6

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	Dick led an **impecunious** life before fame and fortune knocked at his door.	*poo*______	*wea*______
2.	The heavy downpour this afternoon has **impeded** work at the construction site.	*hin*______	*has*______
3.	There was a sense of **ominous** doom in the air. It was as if something bad was about to happen.	*imp*______	*unf*______
4.	Sunny has many amusing tales to tell as he leads an **itinerant** life.	*tra*______	*sta*______
5.	The sordid living conditions of the inmates were **deplorable**.	*fil*______	*imm*______
6.	Victor's **flamboyant** nature was reflected in his outrageous dressing sense.	*gra*______	*sim*______
7.	Larry is not serious about work and is always making **flippant** remarks.	*imp*______	*sob*______
8.	In a fit of anger, the loan-shark **defaced** the wall with red paint.	*mar*______	*bea*______
9.	The restaurant has poor business because of its **insalubrious** outlook.	*fil*______	*hyg*______
10.	The fat boy seems to have an **insatiable** appetite for cakes. He can never stop eating them.	*uns*______	*con*______
11.	Captain Jack was **fervently** searching for the treasure when the walls caved in.	*eag*______	*ind*______
12.	It was **mutinous** of the soldier to disobey his commander. It reflected a lack of discipline.	*reb*______	*com*______
13.	Her voice was **muffled** over the phone. I could hardly hear her.	*sti*______	*amp*______
14.	To **propitiate** my father, I promised to obey his wishes, but I had no intention of fulfilling them.	*pac*______	*inc*______
15.	During the war, people **hoarded** bags of rice for fear of a shortage of food.	*ama*______	*squ*______

Challenge 7

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	He has to **hobble** on his crutch for one month after he broke his leg.	lim______	spr______
2.	Stop wearing that **hideous** looking mask. You look awful in it.	mon______	lov______
3.	Coal mining is a **hazardous** job. Not many people are willing to do it.	per______	sec______
4.	Don't depend on Roy! He always does things in a **haphazard** manner.	unp______	int______
5.	Avoid making **groundless** accusations when you have no concrete evidence.	unf______	evi______
6.	It is **futile** to blame one another now. Nothing can be achieved by doing that.	poi______	wor______
7.	There can't be any good harvest this year because the land is **barren**.	unp______	fru______
8.	The sensitive Judy was offended by Simon's **jocular** reply. He should have considered her feelings first.	fac______	ser______
9.	It is of **paramount** importance that you deliver this document today.	utm______	tri______
10.	Everybody knows that Linda is a **parsimonious** girl who hardly spends.	sti______	gen______
11.	Joan is very **finicky** about the people she associates with.	par______	unb______
12.	Being a charitable man, James always gives to the **destitute** ones.	pen______	pro______
13.	It was with **contrition** that Esther wrote this letter of apology; she was truly sorry for what she had done.	pen______	gui______
14.	Just one cup of coffee is able to **perk** Susie up.	rev______	dea______
15.	After suffering an **ignominious** defeat, the soldiers put an end to their lives.	hum______	vic______

Challenge 8

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	Adding spices to the stew will lend a more **piquant** taste to the dish.	sha______	ins______
2.	This piece of news will not affect him. He is known for his **placidity**.	cal______	dis______
3.	This piece of metal is **pliable**. It can be bent into many shapes.	ela______	inf______
4.	The **poignant** memories of war brought tears to the soldier's eyes and he began to weep uncontrollably.	dis______	ple______
5.	The graceful Florence carries herself with **poise** all the time.	com______	ine______
6.	It is a surprise that the **corpulent** butcher has such a pretty wife.	por______	sle______
7.	Travelling on budget airplanes is becoming more **prevalent** these days.	wid______	unc______
8.	Keith was **flabbergasted** when he heard the news; he did not know what to say.	ast______	unr______
9.	The **garish** lights at the party was giving Veronica a headache, so she had to leave before the event ended.	ost______	uno______
10.	The **rancour** between these two families has been existing for many years.	bit______	fri______
11.	The press **hounded** the superstar so as to get juicy news.	har______	ign______
12.	This **colossal** building has been around since 1900s. There is a rich historical background behind it.	gig______	min______
13.	Unable to accept the fact that she has lost her only son, she became **delirious**.	hys______	con______
14.	Don't buy **superfluous** things that you don't need, otherwise you may end up throwing them away.	red______	nec______
15.	Modern children don't like to be **regimented**. They want to be independant.	gov______	unc______

Challenge 9

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
*(The **first 3 letters** of each answer have been given to help you.)*

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The officer was **exonerated** from the charge of leaving the military premises without permission.	*abs*______	*bla*______
2. The dining table was laid with the **copiousness** of food of all kinds.	*abu*______	*dea*______
3. Today's meeting has been **adjourned** until further notice.	*pos*______	*con*______
4. It is despicable of him to insult David's stutter. He knows that it is David's **Archilles heel**.	*wea*______	*str*______
5. The working mother is **adherent** of flexible working hours because she can then have the time to take care of her young children.	*sup*______	*dis*______
6. The robber was filled with **apprehension** when caught by the police.	*une*______	*sel*______
7. He is an **insolent** child who needs to be taught some manners.	*arr*______	*hum*______
8. His **abhorrence** of durians is evident from the disgusted look of his face.	*ave*______	*aff*______
9. I can **ameliorate** my poor tennis skills if I practise more.	*imp*______	*wor*______
10. After repairing the car, the technician was **swarthy** all over and needed a shower.	*soo*______	*pri*______
11. Kenny was a **boisterous** child who liked to get into fights.	*unr*______	*com*______
12. To escape from the **fetters** of marriage, Gisele decides to leave home.	*sha*______	*fre*______
13. The braggart loves to **swagger** about his heroic deeds to all his friends.	*boa*______	*dep*______
14. The **cardinal** idea of holding this retreat is to strengthen bonds among staff.	*pri*______	*aux*______
15. The **clamour** from the audience brought the band back to the stage and they started performing again.	*upr*______	*tra*______

Challenge 10

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
*(The **first 3 letters** of each answer have been given to help you.)*

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The wizard seems to have an air of **clairvoyance** about him.	*for*______	*una*______
2. Daniel displayed great **dexterity** with his fingers when playing the piano.	*ski*______	*awk*______
3. The explorers recount their **intrepid** adventures to the villagers.	*fea*______	*cow*______
4. Bobby tried to **dissipate** the smoke by opening a window and letting in some fresh air.	*dif*______	*con*______
5. After holding a **prosaic** job for many years, she decides to go for a long vacation.	*mun*______	*int*______
6. The King **bestowed** on the general, the greatest honour.	*con*______	*wit*______
7. He is an **inveterate** gambler. Nobody can change his ways.	*hab*______	*occ*______
8. He has outshone the **contemporaries** in his time to become the most famous writer.	*coe*______	*ant*______
9. **Intermittent** downpours are common these days. You should carry an umbrella with you.	*spo*______	*inc*______
10. The principal refuses to give **countenance** to such behaviour in school.	*app*______	*pro*______
11. After deciding that she would live the rest of her days as a nun, Nelly **relinquished** her claim to her inheritance.	*ren*______	*yea*______
12. Morris could not fit into the group because of his **oafishness**.	*clu*______	*gra*______
13. Victor was commended for displaying **intrepidity** in the face of danger.	*rel*______	*cow*______
14. In spite of his **disparaging** remarks, the team members held onto their beliefs.	*dis*______	*enc*______
15. Clara looks at the scavenger with **disdain** and shivered at his grisly appearance.	*con*______	*adm*______

Challenge 11

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. **Transgression** of the terms in the contract will put you into trouble.	vio______	adh______
2. After the **annulment** of their marriage, they went separate ways.	dis______	uni______
3. Be careful not to commit any **flagrant** deeds, otherwise you may lose your reputation.	sha______	rep______
4. The **parched** desert was unbearable; we had little chance to survive without water.	ari______	moi______
5. The white hat was **embellished** with pink roses.	orn______	una______
6. Mr Lee was unable to meet his workers' **inordinate** demands for higher wages.	exc______	mod______
7. It was an **exhilarating** ride for Vivian who had never sat on a rollercoaster ride before.	inv______	uni______
8. Tourists commented on the **quaint** customs of village life.	ant______	mod______
9. Don't take that cup of milk. It has turned **rancid**.	rot______	fre______
10. After years of fighting on the battlefields, the soldier returns home looking **gaunt**.	hag______	ani______
11. The play was too **ponderous** for his liking; he prefers less serious themes.	gra______	che______
12. It would be **inexpedient** to set sail in this storm.	ina______	app______
13. That was an **infelicitous** remark you made on her dressing. You should have been more careful with your words.	una______	sui______
14. Being trapped in prison was like an **inferno** for the innocent man.	per______	hea______
15. The tyrannical man has a **predisposition** to fight with anyone who opposes him.	inc______	rel______

Challenge 12

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The **indolent** worker was dismissed in this retrenchment exercise.	laz______	dil______
2. Those are just **lofty** ideas of yours. You need to be more realistic.	exa______	hum______
3. To **mollify** his wife, he bought her a new diamond ring.	app______	inf______
4. Yellow was the **preponderant** colour in this room. The walls and even the furniture were all yellow.	dom______	min______
5. Jerry spoke with **asperity** about his enemy whom he will never forgive.	bit______	mil______
6. Results are **ascertainable** if we run some vigorous tests.	mea______	inf______
7. This play is a **travesty**. The actors did not know their lines and were unconvincing in their roles.	moc______	rep______
8. You may be having a hard time now, but this is just an **ephemeral** phase.	fle______	eve______
9. The model wore a **pout** when she was told that she wasn't needed for the fashion show.	sul______	gri______
10. The whole story she told about being an heiress is just a **prevarication**.	myt______	rea______
11. Everyone who turned up at the funeral was **garbed** in black suits.	clo______	una______
12. The cancerous disease caused the patient to become **emaciated** and lethargic.	fra______	stu______
13. Terence always **dawdles** over tasks that he doesn't like doing.	dal______	hur______
14. Many children and women are **hapless** victims of this war.	unf______	ble______
15. In **deference** to the custom, he abstained from solid food every Friday.	rev______	dis______

Challenge 13

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. Those who thought the Titanic was an **impregnable** ship were deeply wrong.	*sec*_____	*urls*_____
2. This is just a **spurious** claim. Only the gullible will believe it.	*fal*_____	*gen*_____
3. Susie was making **surreptitious** glances at him throughout the meeting.	*fur*_____	*can*_____
4. This boutique claims to sell branded clothes, but this dress looks so **tawdry**.	*sho*_____	*opu*_____
5. Benny had been **dwindling** in obscurity for many years before his talents were discovered.	*dec*_____	*thr*_____
6. Esther was forced to leave the company as a result of the **treacherous** acts committed by her colleagues.	*bet*_____	*loy*_____
7. The **vindictive** man vows to get back at his enemies.	*rev*_____	*for*_____
8. The players hanged their heads in **abasement** after losing the match.	*hum*_____	*hon*_____
9. My grandfather is a **cantankerous** old man who never stops complaining.	*gru*_____	*agr*_____
10. The pop star tried to leave his hotel but was **besieged** by his fans.	*sur*_____	*des*_____
11. It would be **churlish** of me to decline their invitation.	*rud*_____	*fri*_____
12. Your salary will be **commensurate** with your working experience.	*sui*_____	*ina*_____
13. He remained **nonchalant** despite the accusations against him.	*det*_____	*agi*_____
14. Thomas was suffering from **lassitude** after spending sleepless nights on the project.	*exh*_____	*vib*_____
15. My mother is **querulous** whenever she comes back from work.	*irr*_____	*gen*_____

Challenge 14

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The political situation is relatively **quiescent** now.	*qui*_____	*dis*_____
2. The salesgirls in this boutique are **supercilious**. I don't like shopping here.	*hau*_____	*mod*_____
3. He pursued his dreams with **tenacity** and realised them at the age of thirty.	*det*_____	*irr*_____
4. It was a pity that he quitted at the **zenith** of his singing career.	*pea*_____	*tro*_____
5. He has lost his **zeal** for life. He badly needs something to perk himself up.	*ent*_____	*apa*_____
6. I would not accept the **unctuous** sympathy he had for me.	*hyp*_____	*blu*_____
7. After interrogations, the suspect **vehemently** denied his involvement in the robbery.	*str*_____	*mil*_____
8. He remained **obdurate**. Nobody could change his mind.	*stu*_____	*com*_____
9. Dressed in **iridescent** costumes, the dancers were like fairies on stage.	*bri*_____	*neu*_____
10. **Enamoured** with the dress she saw on display, Tricia worked hard to buy it.	*att*_____	*rep*_____
11. Tony **ruminated** for weeks before deciding to take up the scholarship.	*con*_____	*dis*_____
12. The wealthy man donated a **munificent** sum of money to the poor before he passed away.	*gen*_____	*mis*_____
13. Her body was **mutilated** beyond recognition by the murderer.	*dam*_____	*men*_____
14 The issue of subsidies is **peripheral** to the question of agricultural reform.	*uni*_____	*cri*_____
15. Doris was **pertinacious** about setting up a business despite facing many obstacles.	*det*_____	*irr*_____

Challenge 15

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions. **Synonyms** **Antonyms**
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

1. He was a child **prodigy** who made his first performance as a pianist at the age of six. *gen*______ *idi*______
2. Her **luxuriant** black hair fell softly around her shoulders. *thi*______ *spa*______
3. I have been **tethered** to my desk all day because there is too much work to complete. *tie*______ *loo*______
4. She remains **implacable** in her pursuit for legal action against the company. *rel*______ *cha*______
5. Despite using all sorts of tactics, Chris was **impervious** to my charms. *una*______ *inf*______
6. The oil spillage has an **imponderable** impact on nature. Thousands of species of wildlife have perished so far. *ind*______ *mea*______
7. Everybody showed **obeisance** to the director when he came for a visit. *res*______ *dis*______
8. The sales staff will not handle finance and other **extraneous** matters. *irr*______ *rel*______
9. The **fetid** smell from the dead body was revolting. There were flies and maggots around it. *sta*______ *fre*______
10. The weary children walked **languidly** up the mountain. *slu*______ *ene*______
11. Being an inexperienced rider, Charlene could not handle the **frisky** horse. *act*______ *sed*______
12. Mr Tham sank into **debauchery** ever since his wife left him. *rev*______ *sol*______
13. This is just a **venial** mistake. It is no cause for alarm. *har*______ *dea*______
14. The **figurative** use of language in this book draws me to read on. *sym*______ *lit*______
15. The little girl's imagination was **kindled** by the ghost story she just read. *lig*______ *ext*______

Challenge 16

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions. **Synonyms** **Antonyms**
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

1. Engaging in **venal** practices for money is an offence which can lead to imprisonment. *imm*______ *inn*______
2. Only a wicked person could have carried out such a **vile** attack. *dis*______ *ple*______
3. Bush's foresight and **sagacity** earned him many votes during the Presidential Election in 2004. *wis*______ *foo*______
4. George is **fanatic** where birds are concerned. He can talk on and on about them. *cra*______ *cyn*______
5. Madam Chan is a **capricious** woman who changes her mind often. *whi*______ *dog*______
6. These are just **mendacious** accusations made by gossip mongers; they are not to be heeded. *unt*______ *hon*______
7. Accepting the job was a **fortuitous** move and her career blossomed from there. *for*______ *unl*______
8. Your membership will be revoked if you **contravene** the regulations. *bre*______ *uph*______
9. The **oleaginous** man was prepared to do anything to further his career. *hyp*______ *sin*______
10. The teenage robber went back to his **recalcitrant** ways after rehabilitation. *reb*______ *sub*______
11. I fell asleep while watching the **vapid** TV programme. *bor*______ *ima*______
12. He was in a **truculent** mood when he heard he had not been promoted. *arg*______ *cal*______
13. The three adventurers **synchronised** their watches before starting their climb up Mount Everest. *coo*______ *jar*______
14. Swimming pools are a big hit in this **torrid** weather. *ari*______ *coo*______
15. The official is an **officious** man who likes to misuse his powers for his own needs. *ego*______ *alt*______

Challenge 17

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The deeply **pious** man was horrified by the immoral behaviour of his two sons.	god___	sin___
2. Profits in the company have been **shrivelling** since the recession started.	dim___	inc___
3. Mr Ong could hardly recognise his wife's **quavering** voice at the end of the phone.	tre___	cal___
4. Who is that **sultry** new girl in our office? Every man in the company is paying attention to her.	att___	und___
5. You will not run out of conversation topics with Sally. She is a **loquacious** girl.	tal___	tac___
6. The girl developed a **precocious** ability to play chess since young.	ear___	slo___
7. Such a **quixotic** project is hard to materialise in the real world.	imp___	rea___
8. Those mushrooms may look **innocuous** but they are in fact poisonous.	har___	let___
9. Despite having lost everything in the fire, he was not **daunted**.	int___	ens___
10. He was in a **contemplative** mood and sitting there by himself for a hour.	pen___	ina___
11. Don't be a **hoggish** fellow. Share with others.	gre___	sel___
12. He really has a knack for **cajoling** people into doing what he wants.	per___	thr___
13. Nobody could understand the **bizarre** twist of events that have uncovered so far.	str___	usu___
14. Everybody laughed at the **dippy** act he did on stage.	foo___	ing___
15. Given time, he can be a good singer because he has a **malleable** voice.	fle___	unc___

Challenge 18

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. This movie has **malodorous** scenes that may not be suitable for children.	off___	app___
2. The scientist is even able to convince the **rabid** critics of his invention.	cyn___	app___
3. The heartless man is not the least bit **remorseful** for what he has done.	reg___	gui___
4. The Princess gave him a **seraphic** smile that melted his heart.	hea___	hel___
5. It is **intrinsic** in Alex's nature to react in this way. He has been brought up like this.	inb___	acq___
6. The couple found it hard to stay together due to their **disparate** life styles.	dif___	sim___
7. The silence is **disquieting**. Looks like trouble is brewing.	dis___	cal___
8. It will be a short meeting. You can expect we are not going into the **disquisition** of things.	det___	sum___
9. The tide is **ebbing** soon. We can walk further down the beach.	low___	flo___
10. The poor woman described the **appalling** state of their living conditions to the Minister in an effort to seek financial assistance.	con___	app___
11. Nobody wants to live in that **decrepit** hut that is located deep in the forest.	run___	man___
12. Japan has a **homogenous** society whereas Singapore's population is multi-racial.	uni___	div___
13. The company should have a transparent and **equitable** system.	fai___	unr___
14. A good travel guide is **indispensable** to the backpacker. He cannot do without one.	ess___	unn___
15. The heavy sentence should act as a strong **deterrent** to the would-be offenders.	pre___	enc___

Challenge 19

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. Such a **lurid** film can only be screened in cinema for adults.	sen______	con______
2. The criminals cleverly **eluded** the police by disguising themselves.	esc______	enc______
3. The soldiers pledged **allegiance** to the King who had ruled the country for decades.	loy______	tre______
4. This **premium** bottle of wine cannot be bought anywhere else.	qua______	dis______
5. Only you could have thought of such a **preposterous** idea!	rid______	ing______
6. His life seems to have followed a **preordained** path. Everything that the fortune teller has predicted about him turns out true.	fat______	cha______
7. Stephanie was dressed in a **resplendent** evening gown which attracted the attention of the guests.	spl______	uns______
8. The candles were **snuffed** out one by one by the strong wind.	ext______	ign______
9. **Togged** in swimming costumes, the children were ready for a dip in the pool.	clo______	und______
10. Nobody could comprehend the **visceral** hatred between the two of brothers.	emo______	det______
11. Serene's **unswerving** loyalty to her boss finally earned her a promotion.	unw______	wea______
12. An investigation was conducted to see if there was an **unwarranted** use of public funds.	unn______	jus______
13. The players displayed **swashbuckling** confidence when tackling their opponents.	bra______	cow______
14. The King's **forbearing** nature earned him the respect of his subjects.	for______	ven______
15. His **servile** wife runs water for his bath when he comes home from work everyday.	sub______	reb______

Challenge 20

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The gangster used **profane** language when the waitress could not accede to his request.	dis______	sac______
2. The campaign went into a state of **torpor** after the initial publicity was over.	ins______	zea______
3. To get home quickly, Wayne avoids the **tortuous** route and takes the short cut instead.	com______	sim______
4. Her **waspish** tongue has caused her much trouble in the past.	sha______	fri______
5. Public interest for social causes tends to **wane** during a recession.	wea______	str______
6. It took months of **painstaking** research before she was ready to embark on the actual writing of the book.	ted______	eff______
7. They gave us an **effusive** welcome and were attentive to all our needs when we first arrived.	war______	hos______
8. I have no desire to **embroil** myself in futile arguments.	inv______	dis______
9. A dove is often used as an **emblem** of peace.	sym______	mis______
10. This **enervating** play puts me to sleep. Nobody in the audience was interested.	dul______	ins______
11. He made a **grandiloquent** speech but it meant nothing to the audience.	pom______	hum______
12. If you think you can get instant **gratification** from this, you are wrong.	sat______	dis______
13. Don't **dismantle** the toy car! It is difficult to put the parts back.	sep______	ass______
14. The villains were punished for committing **atrocious** acts on their victims.	gro______	nob______
15. The proud lady spoke in a **condescending** tone to her servant.	dis______	hum______

Challenge 21

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The health inspectors **castigated** the kitchen staff for their poor hygiene standard.	*cri*______	*com*______
2. The Minister **capitulated** to demands for him to step down.	*yie*______	*rej*______
3. We are doing good business. **Multitudes** of customers visit our shop everyday.	*flo*______	*tri*______
4. The unkind Yvonne is always making **curt** remarks to hurt me.	*abr*______	*fri*______
5. The evil man flashed a **diabolical** smile before killing his father.	*fie*______	*ser*______
6. Having a wedding in the church is a **solemn** affair. Alll couples intending to get married there are to treat the place with sanctity.	*sac*______	*unh*______
7. This place is like a **sanctuary** to me whenever I want to avoid my disgruntled mother.	*hav*______	*hel*______
8. His **sanguine** nature drives him on when others give up along the way.	*pos*______	*pes*______
9. She displayed **sang-froid** despite being caught in the frenzied situation.	*cal*______	*dis*______
10. This is not a very **salubrious** part of the town; lots of shady businesses are carried out here.	*res*______	*deg*______
11. These drugs have been proven to have a **deleterious** effect on our bodies.	*har*______	*ben*______
12. Let's remain **circumspect** and wait before taking any action.	*cau*______	*ung*______
13. Don't worry about not finding a seat, this is a **capacious** theatre.	*spa*______	*cra*______
14. After living in severe conditions, the poor boy develops a **sallow** complexion.	*yel*______	*ros*______
15. George was momentarily **petrified** by the heavy blow on his head.	*daz*______	*ale*______

Challenge 22

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. The surgeon was held **culpable** for the failed operation.	*res*______	*gui*______
2. It is not surprising that he has poor grades as he has a **lackadaisical** attitude towards studies.	*dis*______	*ent*______
3. I have trees planted around the **periphery** of my lawn to demarcate the area from my neighbour's.	*edg*______	*cen*______
4. I don't find the dishes in this restaurant particularly **palatable**.	*app*______	*una*______
5. Stop listening to her words. It's all **gibberish**!	*non*______	*wis*______
6. The stingy man was only willing to give a **paltry** sum of money for the damage he caused.	*tin*______	*mun*______
7. Every attempt has been made to ensure that the works of art are preserved for **posterity**.	*des*______	*anc*______
8. The **petulant** boy refused to leave because his mother refused to buy him that toy.	*sul*______	*jov*______
9. These **slothful** workers deserve to be reprimanded by their supervisor.	*slu*______	*act*______
10. The **prudish** boarding school has strict regulations enforced on their girls.	*pri*______	*lib*______
11. Despite numerous counselling sessions, the little girl remains **withdrawn** and quiet.	*res*______	*ext*______
12. The artist spoke in an **uppish** tone as he showed us his works.	*con*______	*mod*______
13. In recent decades, women were **emancipated** from traditional roles.	*fre*______	*res*______
14. Nobody is perfect. We all have our little **foibles**.	*wea*______	*str*______
15. My mother is becoming more and more **irascible** these days, she will flare up for no reason.	*irr*______	*soo*______

Challenge 23

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	We have **irrefutable** evidence that the fire was started by Roy.	und______	dis______
2.	I have lost count of the **multifarious** jobs I have taken over the years.	var______	sin______
3.	Our company has suffered a **precipitous** decline in orders since the rumour started.	sha______	gen______
4.	The sharp **staccato** style used in his novel was popular with the readers.	dis______	flo______
5.	Please keep your letter **succinct** and to the point.	con______	lon______
6.	A **gregarious** girl, Gayle loves to hang out after work in the company of friends.	out______	ant______
7.	The kidnappers asked for an **exorbitant** ransom before setting their victims free.	hug______	pal______
8.	Service at this shop is **expeditious**. Our demands are met almost at once.	qui______	slo______
9.	The country must **extirpate** the evils of drug abuse.	era______	pre______
10.	An introvert by nature, Nathan always appears **maladroit** at social occasions.	awk______	def______
11.	**Indubitably**, it was Robert that you saw, not his twin brother.	dou______	unc______
12.	Due to his **belligerent** nature, he was always picking fights with everyone.	qua______	pea______
13.	This is a **stupendous** feat for him since he had no formal training.	rem______	ord______
14.	Nora's face turned **pallid** when she received the bad news that her father had been hospitalised.	pal______	flu______
15.	Trying to make my way out of the dense forest alone was a **surreal** experience for me.	dre______	rea______

Challenge 24

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

		Synonyms	Antonyms
1.	Having survived a failed marriage and bankruptcy, his **tempestuous** life is recorded in this book.	sto______	une______
2.	Theresa turned away in **revulsion** when she spotted the gruesome corpse in the deep forest.	dis______	ple__ ____
3.	Mr Tan's reputation was ruined by the **scurrilous** article in the tabloids.	dam______	har______
4.	I am unable to put this book down for it has a **riveting** storyline.	exc______	mon______
5.	Suddenly, all the lights went out and the room was **shrouded** in darkness.	cov______	unv______
6.	After being questioned by the police for hours, the suspect's energy was **sapped**.	wea______	str______
7.	The company is under investigations by the police for engaging in **nefarious** activities.	imm______	upr______
8.	Young and full of **exuberance**, the world was Andrea's oyster when she first started work after graduation.	vit______	let______
9.	After experiencing the trauma, she has an **indelible** memory of what happened.	unf______	unm______
10.	That was a **side-splitting** joke you have just made.	amu______	bor______
11.	Lava that spills out from the volcano is in its **viscous** form.	thi______	dil______
12.	He turned up at the meeting looking **dishevelled** and drenched from head to toe.	mes______	imm______
13.	Some people take a **ghoulish** delight in listening to horrifying ghost stories.	fri______	ple______
14.	Don't be **perturbed** by the news. It may not be true.	wor______	com______
15.	Mathilda was a **vivacious** girl before she suffered from cancer.	liv______	dul______

Challenge 25

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
*(The **first 3 letters** of each answer have been given to help you.)*

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. I could not understand the **garbled** message that Quinn left in the message box.	*con*______	*cle*______
2. One look at the **forlorn** garden and one can tell that no one is occupying the house.	*neg*______	*att*______
3. I lost the next page of my speech and **floundered** for a few seconds.	*pan*______	*com*______
4. You must be **flaked** out after all those strenuous exercises.	*exh*______	*inv*______
5. **Fettered** by a mortgage loan, he was unable to cough up any more funds.	*bon*______	*fre*______
6. The hall was **festooned** with Christmas lights, balloons and colourful ribbons.	*dec*______	*una*______
7. Spring is a good time for travel when the climate is **clement**.	*ple*______	*sev*______
8. The angry customer **expostulated** about the waitress about her poor service.	*com*______	*pra*______
9. George's **expounded** reasoning of his weird theories makes no sense to us.	*det*______	*abr*______
10. What we have viewed in Singapore is only an **expurgated** version of the movie.	*cen*______	*une*______
11. Johnny managed to **rouse** the crowd with his alluring speech.	*exc*______	*soo*______
12. His latest novel received **excoriating** reviews causing him great distress.	*unf*______	*rav*______
13. This attack will **exacerbate** the already tense relations between the two countries.	*wor*______	*imp*______
14. She has never **evinced** any interest in this subject.	*dis*______	*hid*______
15. The **evanescent** event did not register any impact on him.	*fle*______	*eve*______

Challenge 26

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
*(The **first 3 letters** of each answer have been given to help you.)*

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. He is a member of the singing **ensemble** that performs on Christmas Eve.	*gro*______	*sol*______
2. I don't want to be **entangled** in this endless debate with Harry, so I choose to walk away.	*emb*______	*uni*______
3. Having won **eminence** as a politician, the capable woman now intends to venture into business.	*res*______	*dis*______
4. I don't understand your reasoning. You have to **elucidate** again.	*exp*______	*baf*______
5. Being with Wendy is great fun because she is an **effervescent** girl who can motivate anyone.	*hum*______	*sol*______
6. The **ebullient** bride kept smiling to the guests even though she had a long day.	*ene*______	*lif*______
7. My savings have **dwindled** for the past few months because of the medical bills.	*dro*______	*inc*______
8. His music often has a **lugubrious** feel and you always feel sad listening to it.	*mel*______	*che*______
9. There is a lot of **dissent** and disquiet among the population due to the oppressive government.	*dis*______	*agr*______
10. The unfriendly girl gave **desultory** replies whenever I tried to make conversation with her.	*ind*______	*int*______
11. The heavy storm is expected to **desist** in a week's time.	*cea*______	*per*______
12. The board has **deprecated** the company's investment plans in East Malaysia.	*dis*______	*sup*______
13. Her **delectable** role in the play won the hearts of the audience.	*del*______	*unp*______
14. Only a **credulous** fool like me will believe your story.	*gul*______	*sma*______
15. Roles and responsibilities are clearly **demarcated** so that there will be no arguments whatsoever.	*sep*______	*mer*______

Challenge 27

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions. (The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. Dressed in a black suit, the man has a **debonair** air about him.	cha______	una______
2. Cancer has **debilitated** him over the years, reducing him to a pack of bones.	wea______	str______
3. In a **buoyant** mood after a few drinks, Jay finally declared his love for Jacintha.	flo______	sin______
4. The young mother **blenched** at the thought of changing the baby's diapers.	cri______	wel______
5. Once the board approves, the decision will be **irrevocable**.	unc______	mod______
6. His role of Gaston in the musical was executed with great **panache**.	con______	unc______
7. The acrobat was hanging **perilously** on a burning rope.	dan______	sec______
8. She gave such a **piteous** description of her plight that many who listened to her account shed tears uncontrollably.	hea______	pit______
9. My heart aches when I hear the **plaintive** music playing at the funeral.	glo______	joy______
10. This kettle has only been bought for a month; it is in **pristine** condition.	wor______	mal______
11. After jogging a few rounds, Alice was sweating **profusely**.	ple______	mea______
12. I don't like reading novels by this author as his **prolix** style puts me to sleep.	ver______	suc______
13. This advertisement **promulgates** the belief that being thin is beautiful.	spr______	wit______
14. Stop **lamenting** about the past and do something constructive now.	mou______	rej______
15. Having displayed supreme military **prowess**, the general was promoted.	com______	dis______

Challenge 28

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions. (The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. Belinda is too **pusillanimous** to stand up against her father, so she agreed to the arranged marriage.	cow______	fea______
2. I enjoy taking vacations at the countryside because of the **quietude**.	ser______	dis______
3. Mr Tan was **quivering** with rage during the argument, but he calmed down after that.	sha______	una______
4. A **raving** beauty, Samantha is admired by several men for her physical assets.	ext______	mod______
5. Vincent is convinced that his love for Debbie will one day be **reciprocated**.	ret______	rej______
6. The baroness was **reclining** elegantly on the sofa that afternoon.	lea______	upr______
7. James is **relentless** in his pursuit of his career and will not let anyone stand in his way.	det______	ind______
8. Keith **repudiated** their allegation that he was the culprit.	den______	acc______
9. Despite his age, my grandfather has **robustness** in him that is the envy of youngsters like me.	str______	wea______
10. At the party, the hungry man was **roving** his eyes in search of food.	wan______	fix______
11. It was truly **altruistic** of him to give up all his money for charity.	sel______	ava______
12. Robert was engaged in a **scintillating** conversation and his eyes shone as he spoke.	exc______	bor______
13. The host provided trays of **scrumptious** cakes for his guests.	del______	unp______
14. The government enforced **stringent** measures so that the hygiene standard is met.	str______	len______
15. The investigators have absolutely no clue of the culprits who had committed the **macabre** murder.	gru______	ple______

Challenge 29

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. Selina was charmed by the strong **virile** voice from the male singer.	*mas*______	*eff*______
2. We **preened** ourselves for using the best quality ingredients in our food.	*pri*______	*sha*______
3. The sailor **regaled** us all night with stories of his adventures.	*ent*______	*ign*______
4. To **mitigate** the tense situation, our teacher has to step in as the peacemaker.	*all*______	*int*______
5. Looking at the photo album, Mrs Wee begins to **reminisce** about her past.	*rem*______	*for*______
6. The complexity of the equation totally **befuddled** even the top student of the class.	*con*______	*enl*______
7. The King makes **bellicose** remarks about his neighbouring country, henceforth triggering a war.	*ant*______	*cor*______
8. Simon was **beguiled** by the ingénue at the party and tried to make conversation with her.	*ent*______	*rep*______
9. Impatient Nana is irritated whenever her mother **bewails** about her misfortune.	*mou*______	*cel*______
10. Mr Yip's reputation was **besmeared** when his student accused him of harassment.	*mar*______	*unt*______
11. Vivian looks so **evocative** in her sexy dress, causing many people to cast a second glance at her.	*exp*______	*una*______
12. Her life is in **jeopardy**, having been captured by the kidnappers.	*dan*______	*sec*______
13. Our group was trying to help but we **inadvertently** caused more trouble instead.	*uni*______	*del*______
14 The crystal vase looks so **incongruous** on the broken table.	*dis*______	*com*______
15. The disease is curable only if it is treated at the **incipient** stage.	*ini*______	*ter*______

Challenge 30

Provide suitable Synonyms and Antonyms for the following questions.
(The first 3 letters of each answer have been given to help you.)

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. **Marooned** on a deserted island for two months, we ate nothing but fruits everyday.	*tra*______	*esc*______
2. I developed a gnawing headache because of the **myriad** problems I had to solve.	*ple*______	*sca*______
3. Fortunately, the child emerged **unscathed** from the fire scene.	*unh*______	*inj*______
4. The doctor was much **venerated** for the care he showed to his patients.	*res*______	*des*______
5. Madam Yeo was tired of trying to **quash** rumours that her son was an ex-convict.	*des*______	*uph*______
6. Jay who had **mellowed** over the years, is now more approachable.	*sof*______	*tou*______
7. The play was a success and ended with the **exaltation** of a standing ovation.	*cli*______	*ant*______
8. After talking to Joe, I found that he was quite an **affable** fellow and easy to talk to.	*fri*______	*hau*______
9. They were warned of the **catastrophe** that was impending and were told to make necessary preparations.	*cal*______	*ble*______
10. The King was proud of his **conquest** of several towns in the country.	*tri*______	*fai*______
11. The company **denounced** him as a spy and sacked him.	*con*______	*app*______
12. The **celestial** being in this painting looks simply enchanting.	*hea*______	*ear*______
13. Darryl is disappointed that they treated his suggestion with **derision**.	*sco*______	*res*______
14. What was seemingly light rain at first had suddenly turned into a **deluge**.	*flo*______	*dro*______
15. My neighbour, Mr Robinson, likes to **flaunt** his wealth in front of everybody.	*dis*______	*hid*______

PART 5 Challenging Phrasal Verbs

Challenge 1

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

Dwell upon ✓ ① It is fruitless to dwell upon the past. We should look forward to the future. *spend too much time on*

2. Her attentive husband nursed her through during her hospitalisation period. *help a person get better*

Stay up ✓ ③ To celebrate this occasion, let's Stay up on New Year's Eve for the countdown. *remain up after bed time*

stick by ✓ ④ Mrs Fox's butler has been sticking by her for more than twenty years. *keep being loyal to*

✓ ⑤ It is easy to strike up a conversation in a cosy [illegible] environment like this. *begin a conversation*

6. In this hot and dry weather, all the plants have shrivelled up. They definitely need to be watered. *curl and dry up*

✓ Thrash out ⑦ All thoughts and feelings should be thrashed out to avoid any misunderstandings between both parties. *to speak one's mind*

8. Nobody knows how Shawn managed to write off his debts in such a short span of time. *cancel, clear out*

✓ Try out ⑨ Instead of contemplating about the feasibility of the idea, we will try out this method and see if it works. *test, experiment*

✓ Passed away ⑩ My grandmother has just Passed away! We are still mourning over her sudden demise. *die*

⑪ Despite following the ingenious escape route he devised, the furtive robber was tracked down by police dogs. *pursue and capture*

own up ⑫ You should ~~own up~~ to your mistakes instead of shirking responsibilities. *confess, admit*

✓ 13. Mr Lee has been Called upon to make a speech as a Guest of Honour for this event. *invite*

14. Since she is in a subordinate position, she has no right to order me about! *give a person orders*

gulp down ⑮ Edward gulps down his food hungrily as though he has not eaten for days. *swallow greedily*

Challenge 2

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Several workers were Laid off in this retrenchment exercise. *dispense with*

✓ 2. The loud music in the discotheque drowns out the voices of the party-goers. *make inaudible, be overwhelmed*

3. Don't gobble up your food all at once. You will get choked. *eat greedily*

✓ 4. We are Idling our time away on the beach and the resort most of the time. *waste time, in idleness*

5. The explorers Set forth from the cave towards north after spending a night there. *towards a place*

✓ 6. The police tried to inquire into the case but could find no evidence. *investigate*

7. A temperamental girl by nature, it is no surprise to us that Jolin has been flaring up for no reason these days. *become angry suddenly*

8. Jason hangs up the phone without leaving a message, so nobody knows that he called. *end a phone conversation*

✓ 9. ~~To~~ give up smoking may be difficult, but definitely achievable. *surrender, stop a habit*

10. In an act of defiance, the teenager Lashed out vulgarities at the principal. *criticise in an angry way*

✓ 11. "This is my last warning; I hope I don't have to spell it out!" my mother told our maid. *explain clearly and in detail*

12. Economists predict that prices of these goods will Peak off when the recession is over. *reach a maximum then fall off*

13. The detective Looked through the case file in an attempt to unearth some clues. *examine or read something quickly*

14. Please queue up if you want to buy concert tickets, otherwise please leave the waiting area. *wait in line*

15. Money has been rolling in since we started business. We will be able to break even in no time. *come in large amounts*

Challenge 3

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

✓ 1. As I'm free today, I can tag along ____________ with you to the market and help you carry your shopping bags. *to go somewhere with*

✓ 2. After months of investigation by the police, it turns out ____________ that my neighbour is not the murderer. *prove to be*

✓ 3. Ever since I have been assigned to night shift by the company, my mother has been ____________ waiting up for me to come home every night. *stay out of bed for*

✓ 4. The murderer ______ wiped his fingerprints off ______ to remove evidence from the scene of crime. *remove by wiping*

5. Applying this cream daily will smooth out ____________ your wrinkles in no time. *get rid of*

✓ 6. I'm sorry. I take ______ my words back ______. I should not use such a harsh tone on you. *return, retract*

7. After endless hearsay that he might be involved in corruption, the Minister finally ____________ stepped down from the political scene in 1999. *resign*

8. Jonathan is in a confused state of mind right now. Give him some time to ~~Hangs up~~ ____________ straighten out his thoughts. *organise a confused situation*

✓ 9. It is difficult to ____________ win back her trust after what has happened. *regain*

10. To get the best price, it is advisable to shop around ____________ first instead of making a hasty decision to buy now. *look around for the best bargain*

✓ 11. "Stop moving about ____________ and sit still! Everyone is looking at you!" Mrs Lee shrieked at her son. *fidget*

✓ 12. Don't mess around ____________ during office hours. Do your work instead. *upset, disturb work*

13. The traffic policeman signalled for the driver to Pull over ____________. *drive to the side of the road*

✓ 14. stand aside ____________ instead of crowding around the scene, so that the civil defence officers can rescue the victims. *move out of the way*

15. After a while, reality finally sinks in ____________ and she breaks down in tears. *become fully understood*

Challenge 4

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Jane, who used to have reservations about taking on this position, has ____________ Settl~~ed down~~ in her job and made new friends. *become contented in and attached to*

2. The news Sparked off ____________ rumours that they were having an affair. *ignite, cause something to start*

3. The student slowly drifted off ____________ to sleep after three hours of monotonous lectures. *move away gradually*

✓ 4. We decide to Let ______ Stephanie in ______ on our plans for a midnight feast. *allow someone to know about*

✓ 5. Please Fill in ____________ your particulars on the form so that I can proceed with registration. *write information in the spaces*

✓ 6. Leonardo refuses to face up ____________ to the death of his fiancée. *accept, deal with*

7. The final contestant manages to Last out ____________ and win the competition. *endure, survive*

✓ 8. Don't get Carried away ____________ with your conversation and forget your appointment. *be or make excited*

✓ 9. I need time to chew over ____________ your offer. I'll let you know the answer by tonight. *consider, think about carefully*

✓ 10. As a substitute, he Stands in ____________ for Beckham whenever the latter cannot make it for the matches. *substitute, take somebody's place*

✓ 11. Curious about the lastest developments in this situation, we egg ______ Lindsay on ______ to tell us what had happened. *encourage, persuade*

12. After returning from holidays, my work has piled up ____________ since nobody took over my duties while I was away. *accumulate*

✓ 13. To save time and effort, Mrs Liew often dines out ____________ instead of cooking for herself. *have meals away from home*

✓ 14. You have to be responsible for your actions, I won't help you cover up ____________ your misdeeds. *hide from the truth*

15. Due to excellent performance from our marketing team, our company has ____________ chalked up. remarkable sales for this year. *achieve a success*

Challenge 5

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

✓ 1. Instead of continuing to be submissive, you ought to summon up your courage and speak your mind. *gather together*

2. Having deep trust for Mr Lee's integrity, I can vouch for him that he didn't do such a thing. *guarantee*

✓ 3. Be careful not to trip over the wires under the carpet. *cause to stumble*

✓ 4. Jennifer always tenses up during interviews despite having plenty of experience in attending such meetings. *become nervous and rigid*

✓ 5. It is difficult to shake off that persistent guy who constantly pesters me. *get rid off, usually people*

6. Due to lack of manpower, volunteers are roped in to help out at this charity event. *persuade to join in*

7. Ericsson could not put up with Angelina any longer and decided to break up with her. *tolerate*

8. Timid Andy finally decides to ask Dorothy out for a date. *invite a person to go out*

✓ 9. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the meeting was called off at the last minute. *cancel*

10. They are grateful to me as a mediator as I have cleared up the misunderstanding between them. *solve, explain*

✓ 11. The busy doctor has been booked up for operations until the end of the year. *engage*

✓ 12. To get a muscular physique, Calvin beefs himself up at the gym everyday. *strengthen*

✓ 13. The foolish girl blurst out unwittingly that she is the culprit who is responsible for the damage. *tell thoughtlessly*

14. In Chinese opera, tons of powder are slapped onto the faces of the artistes backstage before they are ready for their performance . *put on cosmetics, in great quantity*

15. Stop Rolling on about other people's affairs and get back to work. *talk continuously*

Challenge 6

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

✓ 1. "It is insolent of you to barge into my room like this. You should knock first before entering," my sister complained. *interrupt*

✓ 2. We got more than what we bargained for. It was a great shopping trip. *expect*

3. Old provision shops have faded out over the years and have been replaced by hypermarts. *fall into the background*

✓ 4. June makes an effort to dress up for the occasion before she meets her prospective beaus. *dress fashionably*

✓ 5. I dozed off on the sofa every night waiting for my daughter to return. *fall asleep*

6. "You are to stay behind. The rest can leave," the discipline mistress said sharply to the group of notorious boys. *remain at the same place*

✓ 7. For people living in Alaska, it is important to stock up food supplies for the winter months ahead. *accumulate for future use*

✓ 8. This topic has been briefly touched upon during the seminar, but the students did not explore it further. *mention briefly*

✓ 9. This device is able to track down smugglers who are trying to bring in illegal drugs. *capture after searching*

10. There is a snail Nudging along on the wet grass in my garden after the rain. *move by small pushes*

11. Don't despair as we will Weather through these problems together. *survive*

12. This campaign propagates the message reach out a helping hand to those in need. *extend an offer to help*

✓ 13. Don't move forward until I tell you so. If not, you will be disqualified from the game. *advance*

14. She keeps Playing back the past in her mind. It's hard for her to forget about the tragedy. *replay*

15. I'm sorry that I cannot lend you any money now. I have used up. all my savings for this holiday. *exhaust the supply of*

Challenge 7

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete edch sentence.

1. As Marilyn is the person in charge, she will ______ the project ______. *complete successfully*
2. Julie has been ____________ these days to attract her Prince Charming. *dress up attractively*
3. The robber ____________ the drawers but failed to find anything valuable. *search around for*
4. He likes to ____________ his wealth. No one enjoys his company. *display, boast*
5. His repulsive behaviour of digging his nose in public ______ her ______ thoroughly. *make somebody dislike*
6. Write down what you have to do so that you don't ____________ your assignments again. *mix up, confuse*
7. Despite his wealth, Thomas never ____________ on those poorer than him. *hold in contempt*
8. This proposal has to be ____________ to senior management for approval. *send to higher authorities*
9. Janice is miserable enough. Stop ______ it ______! You are causing her more misery. *remind a person of something unpleasant*
10. I just ____________ an old friend this morning. What a coincidence! *meet someone by chance*
11. Her husband is not by her side because he has been ____________ for National Service. *ask to go to another place*
12. There is no point in ____________ like this. You might as well file for divorce. *continue tediously*
13. The master ____________ words of wisdom to his disciple and passes all his knowledge to him. *give advice in great quantity*
14. All the chickens were ____________ to curb the spread of bird flu in Indonesia. *reduce steadily in numbers by killing*
15. Time is running out. Just ____________ the speech notes before making the presentation. *read over quickly*

Challenge 8

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Mr Lee always ______ his children ______ by telling them bedtime stories *put someone to bed*
2. Let's ____________ our feelings so that we do not have any misunderstandings in the future. *get at the truth of*
3. Diana's naive suggestion was ____________ by the project manager during the meeting. *reject, refuse to consider*
4. ____________ for the cars when you cross the road. There are many reckless drivers nowadays. *be careful*
5. Don't be ____________ by your responsibilities. You should take a break at times. *burdened*
6. During spring cleaning, Vernnetta ____________ books that she no longer needs. *get rid of*
7. It is rude to ____________ when someone is talking to you. You should pay attention to the person instead. *look in a different direction*
8. The plane will ____________ in a few minutes, so do fasten your seat-belt. *leave the ground*
9. The detective ____________ the garden trying to look for a clue as to who committed the burglary. *search diligently about*
10. The toy car got ____________ the edge of the table before dropping onto the ground with a thud. *remove over a surface*
11. Let's ____________ $10 so that we can buy a present for Ginette. *gather resources and put together*
12. Rose's father ______ her ______ of the house after she stole the money from the safe. *cast out, reject*
13. He ____________ for his lack of talent in fashion design by putting in more hard work. *compensate*
14. To ____________ the atmosphere, sentimental hits were played so that guests can dance through the night. *make more interesting*
15. Our group has gone through the list and ______ it ______ to a few important points. *reduce by elimination*

Challenge 9

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Mr Chan's business plans __________ during the economic crisis. *fail to develop*

2. My mother __________ the idea of me moving out because she thinks that I am too young to look after myself. *disapprove of*

3. Hard work is the only way to __________ if you want to be promoted to a higher position. *advance, progress*

4. You may be sad now, but you will __________ this eventually and emerge a stronger person. *overcome, get better*

5. The magician __________ all kinds of magic tricks at the gala to entertain the guests. *create in a quick way*

6. The anxious Mrs Brown keeps calling the police to __________ her missing child. *ask for news about*

7. I admire his ability to __________ all unpleasant events easily. *get rid off by laughing*

8. "__________ the list and see how much you can remember," my teacher challenged me. *review, examine, study*

9. Having waited so long for this break, we are all __________ for the excursion this weekend. *get ready, prepare*

10. I must have missed the news since I just __________ the papers this morning. *examine rapidly*

11. With such a strong enforcement team, the culprit will never __________ with his crime. *leave, escape*

12. Please __________ on this report and make the necessary amendments. *keep a check on and take further action*

13. The weak Linda __________ easily when she is in a crowd of people. *become unconscious*

14. __________ the important points in this book so that you can remember the points. *make a note*

15. It is wise to consider the pros and cons before __________ a new business venture. *take part eagerly*

Challenge 10

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The technicians managed to __________ the place in time before the owner moved in. *repair*

2. It is difficult to __________ when things don't go your way unless you have strong willpower. *continue doing something*

3. Please __________ your belongings for a security check before entering the building. *surrender*

4. He is able to __________ from having an affair because of his conscience. *control an emotion*

5. The quiet girl always __________ from making presentations because she does no like attention on herself. *avoid*

6. "I will __________ the matter and give you a satisfactory reply," the police inspector promised. *deal with a task*

7. Betty refuses to visit the washroom alone for fear of __________ ghosts. *encounter*

8. You shouldn't ______ yourself ______ the house all day, but try to go out occasionally and make friends. *enclose, isolate*

9. While you were away, I have __________ the message for you. *make a note of*

10. With the meagre salary she earns, Gisele is able to __________ and leads a spartan lifestyle. *manage to live*

11. Just __________ and doing nothing the whole day can be really therapeutic for highly-stressed people. *relax, rest*

12. You have been idling away with your life so far. It's time you __________ and do something meaningful with your life. *make or become serious*

13. "I'm so sorry, something __________ at the last minute and I have to cancel the appointment tonight," my boyfriend apologised over the phone. *arise unexpectedly*

14. They do not make a good match. The poor man does not __________ to the Princess. *be good enough*

15. Robbie finally __________ his courage to profess his love for Angie on Valentine's Day. *force to be brave to do something*

Challenge 11

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Rain has been ____________ for several days. All my clothes can't seem to dry up. *rain heavily*

2. The drunk Nicky finally ____________ to us that he stole the money. *admit*

3. Bernard felt so angry after reading the letter written by Peggy that he ______ it ______ immediately. *tear off quickly*

4. My teacher always _____ me _____ to read aloud in class in order to keep me from daydreaming. *pick out for special treatment*

5. After ____________ the machine, she doesn't know how to put it back. *dismantle*

6. This extinguisher acts as a ____________ in case a fire breaks out before the firemen arrive. *be ready to help or act*

7. Vivian finally ____________ the ordeal and emerges a stronger person. *recover, save from ruin*

8. Be careful not to _____ all your savings _____, but keep some for emergency purposes. *waste, spend in a foolish*

9. The company decides to purchase two sets of these advanced printing machines which can ____________ documents at an amazing rate. *produce quickly and volumnously*

10. Mr Wong ____________ from his office after receiving a phone call from the hospital that his son has met with an accident. *hurry away*

11. The cigarette was ____________ in a second when the butt was pushed into the ash-tray. *extinguish*

12. This issue needs to be ____________ so that everyone can discuss about it. *raise, start to talk about*

13. We decide to ____________ before the night falls so that we can retire early for the night. *return*

14. She ____________ in tears after hearing the bad news that her husband had perished in the fire. *lose control and cry*

15. To ____________ the secret from Ellen will not be easy for she has been known for her reticence. *supply information*

Challenge 12

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Just bear with me as I will ____________ doing my homework in a few minutes. *finish and done with*

2. Let's ____________ with all the formalities and get down to business. *abolish, get rid of*

3. I still need to ____________ three hundred dollars to pay for my rent. *come up with money*

4. Marooned on an island, Wilson was ____________ from civilisation. *isolate*

5. The traffic police _____ me _____ because I was not familiar with the new traffic rules. *allow a person to go free unpunished*

6. Stop ____________ a big fuss over nothing. You only get yourself upset unnecessarily. *cause a noise or disturbance*

7. What _____ him _____ through these turbulent times is the emotional support from his wife. *encourage, drive on*

8. I ____________ in my new job at first but it gets better after some time. *manage with difficulty*

9. It is irresponsible of him to ____________ on his family when faced with financial difficulties. *leave, abandon*

10. Timothy, the most popular student, has been ____________ to represent the school in the competition. *select, choose*

11. After being ____________ by an insider, the policemen rushed to the scene of crime only to realise that the suspects have escaped. *tell or warn secretly that something is about to happen*

12. Mr Ang always gets ____________ whenever he is embroiled in an argument with his wife. *go into a state of anger or excitement*

13. She ____________ despite holding three jobs because she has to support her family. *continue working hard*

14. Uncle Tay's health problems ____________ his excessive drinking and smoking during his younger days. *originate, derive*

15. The car thief has been ____________ in the carpark while waiting for a chance to strike. *wait around in an aimless way*

Challenge 13

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1.	Even after my apology, Diana still bears a grudge against me and likes to ____________ me for no reason.	*criticise sharply*
2.	I will ____________ what I've said, so have faith in me and I'll deliver what I've promised.	*stick to*
3.	Don't _____ her _____ if you are not interested in her, otherwise you will just be toying with her feelings.	*tease, raise the hopes of*
4.	The juvenile delinquents ____________ poor Alex and forced him to surrender his new handphone.	*act as a group against*
5.	The cold-blooded kidnapper ____________ his victim even after getting the ransom.	*bring to an end*
6.	The terrorist's bomb ____________ before the innocent victims have a chance to escape.	*explode*
7.	Let's ____________ our past disputes and try to become good friends again.	*discard, get rid of*
8.	Luke is not a trustworthy person. He always ____________ on his words.	*fail to keep a promise*
9.	We are the best of friends and ____________ well without any disagreements.	*have a friendly relationship*
10.	The master ____________ all secrets of his trade to his apprentice before he passes on.	*pass on to one's successor*
11.	The journalist has to ____________ what the Minister says during the interview.	*write something quickly*
12.	"Please _____ me _____ before you decide what I did was wrong," said Paul.	*listen to a person until he has finished*
13.	Due to poor management, his business ____________ within a few months.	*finish, collapse*
14.	The innocent girl was unable to ____________ the playboy's amorous pursuit and was eventually won over by him.	*resist*
15.	"I'm willing to ____________ with your suggestion as it sounds like a feasible idea to me," my boss said.	*agree with*

Challenge 14

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1.	All trespassers have to be ____________ of this heavily-guarded building for security purposes.	*stay out, prevent from entering*
2.	Don't ____________ because of your reservations, but give your very best in whatever you do.	*to be slow to do something*
3.	The big-mouthed Angelina has _____ the secret even though she had promised that she would not say a word.	*disclose secret information to others*
4.	____________ all your problems for the time being and just have a good time.	*stop thinking of something temporarily*
5.	I got a good bargain for this Gucci watch after ____________ the price with the salesman.	*lower the price of something for sale*
6.	The mental patient is beginning to ____________ slowly after receiving counselling.	*lay open, speak frankly*
7.	Antony ____________ the idea of starting his own business, but in the end, he decided against it due to a lack of funds.	*consider carefully for a long time*
8.	The old cottages have recently been ____________ with a new coat of paint.	*make neater or tidier*
9.	Don't _____ things _____ in my room when I've already arranged all my things neatly.	*spoil, disarrange*
10.	The chicken is ____________ in foil before being roasted in the oven.	*cover*
11.	The students ____________ their books to prepare for the examinations.	*study carefully*
12.	Let the hot-tempered man ____________ before you talk to him again.	*subside one's anger*
13.	The grandmother's house looks so much more presentable after it has been ____________ for the coming Lunar New Year.	*make to look better*
14.	Once we _____ you _____ as one of our staff, you are not to reveal any confidential information about the company.	*engage as an employee*
15.	Lucky draws were conducted every two hours to ____________ the crowds.	*attract*

Challenge 15

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The salesman manages to ____________ the housewife into buying his pots and pans. *persuade a person by talking*
2. Jesseca was grieved when her boyfriend ______ her ______ and took away all her money. *betray*
3. The possibility of selling our apartment now has been ____________ due to the falling housing prices. *exclude*
4. Please excuse me and make yourself at home, I have to ____________ the other guests. *attend to*
5. The artist ____________ the features of his model before filling in the details. *sketch out roughly*
6. We need to ____________ what we require before proceeding further. *plan*
7. The price of the crystal vase has been ____________ in this sale. *reduce in price*
8. My uncle is someone I have ____________ to since young. *admire and respect*
9. Refusing to give up, they keep ____________ in the park, waiting for the shooting star to appear. *wait on and on*
10. Branda's face ____________ when she hears that Gordan is going to the event. *brighten*
11. It is difficult to ______ my message ______ when you don't want to pay attention. *convey successfully*
12. Together with his accomplices, the burglar ____________ with his loot without leaving a trace behind. *run away with*
13. The new product may not ____________ well with the more mature customers. *be accepted by a person or an audience*
14. With no money left to repay the loan sharks, the bankrupt man thought he was ____________. *ruined*
15. We may not be doing it now, but that's something we'll ____________ to in the future. *progress*

Challenge 16

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The lack of parental love is the reason that ____________ many childhood problems. *cause of*
2. George can ____________ for work in T-shirt and jeans because he works in a creative advertising agency. *appear*
3. Let's ____________ the script together before the camera rolls, so that we can minimise the number of 'NG' takes. *rehearse*
4. The building work has been ____________ to several construction companies so that the project can be completed on time. *share, divide*
5. Since last July, stricter sentences have been ____________ to relatively minor criminals. *give out punishment*
6. What was once a mountain has been ____________ to a rock due to wind and soil erosion. *reduce*
7. I need to ____________ my French before going to France so that I will not face communication problems when I work there. *revise, brush up*
8. An irresolute person by nature, we are not surprised that Wilson is still ____________ which offer to take up. *think over carefully*
9. I need to ______ myself ______ with some hot soup after a long day at work. *make cheerful*
10. These teenagers have been ____________ the shopping centre for hours with no sense of purpose. *loiter*
11. "Don't ____________ any information that can help us solve the case," the police said. *conceal, hesitate*
12. Even though we have only met a few times, we ______ it ______ well and have decided to go for a holiday together. *agree with, get on well together*
13. I won't ______ you ______ any longer since you have important matters to attend to. *delay*
14. The chickens are ____________ on the farm before they are slaughtered. *make fatter*
15. Don't fret over this matter unduly; it will ____________ before you know it. *be forgotten*

Challenge 17

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. "If you want your proposal to be approved, remember to _____ me _____ during the meeting," my manager said. *support*
2. "Why should I __________ money for damages not caused by me?" my sister asked the salesman angrily. *pay or provide unwillingly*
3. The woman gets a new job and manages to __________ with her life after her divorce. *advance, continue*
4. Take your time. You don't have to __________ this report as it is not due for another week. *hurry through*
5. The runners __________ in different teams to participate in the race. *form into pairs*
6. During the discussion, we manage to __________ the cause of our problems. *be precise about a matter*
7. The labourers __________ at the harbour carrying heavy sacks to the ship. *work slowly and continuously*
8. Blood __________ when Cecilia cuts herself accidentally with the kitchen knife. *flows out slowly*
9. The theatre is __________ with eager spectators waiting to watch the performance. *crowd in*
10. The synopsis of the book does not _____ the plot _____. The reader has to read the whole story to find out for herself. *make it known to others*
11. The committee has __________ this case and found no evidence of foul play. *investigate*
12. A cup of coffee will usually _____ me _____ in the morning. *become invigorated*
13. The cushions are __________ so that more people can sit on the sofa. *move over, usually to make room*
14. "You had better __________ in your studies and spend more time to prepare for your examinations," my teacher advised me. *put in more effort*
15. The strict referee has __________ two players due to foul play. *order away from a game for fouling*

Challenge 18

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. "Stop __________ so much trouble for all of us," Cecilia pleaded with the mischievous boy. *create*
2. Illegal immigrants were __________ in this ship because they had no money to pay for the trip. *hide aboard a ship to get a free trip*
3. After scanning the racks for a drink, Alice __________ on her favourite brand. *direct all attention on a particular thing*
4. The paint from the fence has __________ after so many years and definitely needs a fresh coat. *disappears gradually*
5. Resources have been __________ to cover all areas of the jungle in an attempt to find the missing child. *extend, disperse*
6. "Let me _____ you _____ to the person you want to speak to," the pleasant receptionist said. *connect by telephone*
7. The shop owners take advantage of the festive occasion to __________ prices. *raise, increase*
8. Karen had __________ flu after she was caught in the rain last week. *become ill with*
9. Despite falling and injuring himself in the marathon, Armstrong decided to __________ and eventually won the race. *continue with determination*
10. To stimulate sales, the boutique __________ new clothes from Europe every month. *introduce*
11. Listening to soft music can help __________ the tension in the room. *relax, make less tense*
12. There is no need to get so __________ over this. Try to think calmly. *excited*
13. Remember not to __________ the important details in this proposal! *omit*
14. It's cruel to _____ someone _____ like this; you should be more sensitive to his feelings. *reject, dismiss*
15. I am unsure about what she was __________ when she said that the work was not up to her expectations. *mean*

Challenge 19

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The impoverished family __________ every month with subsidies from the government. *manage, pass*
2. You ought to let go as it's pointless __________ something that doesn't belong to you. *long for*
3. Henry fails to __________ to the expectations of his manager and was eventually demoted. *maintain a standard equal or worthy of*
4. Stop __________ the same issue the whole day, but divert your attention to something else. *talk about something many times*
5. You can __________ on investments from China nowadays as the country's economy is booming. *profit from*
6. The human resource director decides to _____ Benjamin _____ the corporate ladder. *promote*
7. Monica __________ a dress that she wants to try out before entering the fitting room. *choose*
8. My neighbour often __________ to my place for a chat when she has time to spare. *visit a person*
9. The questions in the examinations were so easy that Roy just __________ and answered all of them before time was up. *succeed easily*
10. Mike is in his restless self again. He has _____ his focus _____ from his homework to the drama serial that is screened on the television now. *transfer one's attention or interest*
11. As he thought he had a lousy voice, it took Christopher weeks before he __________ enough courage to sing at the karaoke bar. *collect, gather together*
12. Fiona is unable to __________ her boyfriend's act and continues to believe him. *see as false*
13. Let me _____ it _____ and I'll let you know of my decision next week. *consider*
14. This car needs to be __________ before it can run again. *repair, restore*
15. The accounant is exasperated because the figures do not __________. *total*

Challenge 20

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Unable to ride through the difficult times during recession, the shop was eventually __________ by another company. *assume control of*
2. A habitual latecomer, Nikki was __________ by her teacher for being late and subsequently penalised to stay back after school. *reprimand*
3. Constantly irritated by Jacelyn's presence, Benny decides to _____ her _____ by telling her that he is migrating overseas. *get rid of*
4. Mrs Lim is shocked to see that her credit card bills have __________ to a ballpark figure. *accumulate*
5. Mrs Teo __________ the bundle of letters when she was sorting out her correspondences. *find by chance*
6. Mr Ang has __________ alcohol after being diagnosed with cancer. *avoid*
7. Nakata was __________ by Yoko's changed attitude as she was usually an amiable girl who had turned apathetic all at once. *surprised*
8. I have to __________ this whole pile of documents to get the research information I want. *work steadily and slowly*
9. The policeman __________ the sleeve of the robber's shirt while trying to catch him. *pull violently off*
10. With no competitors able to match his standard, the contestant __________ with a brand new car. *win easily*
11. George and Alex __________ as business partners a year ago. *cooperate, come together as a team*
12. You should __________ these new clothes before buying them. *attempt to put on*
13. One needs to __________ new ideas fast in the advertising industry. *invent, produce new ideas*
14. We enjoy __________ duets at karaoke every weekend. *sing out loudly*
15. The room was __________ and given a fresh coat of paint before we moved in. *renovate, repair, restore*

Challenge 21

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Fearing that his grades would __________ his peers, Donald's parents engaged a tutor to guide him in his studies. *others get ahead of you*

2. The professor is unable to __________ his experiment today as one of the chemicals is missing from the laboratory. *execute*

3. Nathaniel __________ the entire basket of flowers from the little girl so that she can go home early for Christmas. *buy everything*

4. Upon seeing the ferocious dogs at the gate, the burglar __________ and abandoned his plan to rob the house. *retreat*

5. When I visited my friend in hospital, she was __________ in bandages from head to toe. *fasten tightly*

6. Herbert's teacher is impressed that he can __________ verses from the book. *recite quickly*

7. She was __________ for picking fights with the boys by the disciplinarian of the boarding school. *dismiss*

8. The company was __________ an answer by the customer about when the refund for the product can be made. *question repeatedly about*

9. The old shop house was __________ to make way for a multi-storey building. *demolish*

10. With a sexy dress, wig and thick make-up on, Larry can __________ as a woman. *be taken for or recognised as*

11. We cross our fingers and hope that she will __________ the ordeal. *survive*

12. __________ the good work! Your piece of art really reflects your talent. *continue to work or try as hard*

3 __________ what you are doing now and have dinner first. *leave until later*

4 To learn more about the subject, Cheryl __________ books in the library for hours. *find out through reading*

taff are encouraged to __________ their suggestions in the meeting. *propose*

Challenge 22

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The director will __________ which company to invest in after reading the proposals submitted by the different organisations. *come to a conclusion*

2. We have __________ after the dispute, much to the relief of our boss. *agree not to quarrel anymore*

3. Don't __________ all your emotions, but try releasing your frustrations by exercising or by confiding in someone. *suppress*

4. To increase profits, they decide to __________ the price, not considering the affordability of their goods to customers. *increase the price*

5. Please _____ me _____ the book that I've lent you as I need to gather some information from it. *return*

6. That gossip monger is always __________ her nose into other people's affairs, trying to dig up juicy news. *make unwanted inquiries*

7. The general decides to __________ his troops at the last minute. *withdraw*

8. Miriam is so tired that she __________ in the cinema and sleeps through the movie. *fall asleep*

9. Mrs Yeo __________ the Yellow Pages to find a suitable plumber to fix her leaking pipes. *search for*

10. One should always __________ and set new goals in order to achieve something in life. *plan for the future*

11. The elusive family who used to live next door has __________ and no one knows their whereabouts now. *leave your house and live somewhere else*

12. "__________. I can give you a lift to your destination," my friend offered me. *get in a car*

13. Upon remembering that he has left his report in the office, Mr Kong decides to __________ to retrieve the document. *return to original location*

14. Check your belongings. Don't _____ anything _____. *go away without*

15. Don't get __________ with the gangsters. They are a bad influence. *be involved in*

Challenge 23

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Nobody likes to be ____________, so stop teasing him.	*mock*
2. Babriel always ____________ the spring cleaning to the last minute.	*avoid doing*
3. Walter ____________ a deep sigh of relief upon hearing the good news.	*release*
4. We have to ____________ the shop space before starting business.	*design and arrange according to a plan*
5. Each person has to tell a story, with George _____ _______ first as he is the leader.	*begin*
6. He is _______ his parents _______ by idling his life away meaninglessly.	*disappoint*
7. Kerry always ____________ sleeping whenever she watches any movie more than two hours long.	*reach a certain situation or place*
8. Being struck from behind, Christina has no idea how she ____________ in the isolated hut.	*end up in a particular situation*
9. The ship has ____________ after hitting the iceberg, killing thousands of people aboard.	*sink*
10. ____________ with the proposal, we will support you by giving you the budget you need.	*proceed*
11. Being a submissive man, Judy's husband always ____________ to her after every fight.	*agree to stop opposing*
12. The message ____________ to people that this product is suitable for everybody.	*drives in information*
13. He ____________ the job offer without even asking how much he is going to be paid.	*accept enthusiastically*
14. All the scenes have to be ____________ to ensure that the whole storyline flows in a congruent manner.	*join or bring together*
15. The flowers, having all ____________ during the summer, turned into dry petals before falling off onto the ground.	*shrivel and dry up*

Challenge 24

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The revengeful man decides to ____________ his enemies by giving them a heavy thrashing.	*take revenge on*
2. Please ____________ at the website if you want to find out more information on this subject.	*continue reading*
3. I admire his ability to ____________ quotes from that book; it is as if he has a splendid memory.	*say quickly and without effort*
4. Presents are ____________ halfway to the ceiling to form a gigantic Christmas tree.	*arrange in piles*
5. Your wound looks infected. It has ____________ and needs to be treated immediately.	*rise up, expand*
6. Jimmy ____________ at the last minute for the show because he has overslept and missed the timing.	*arrive somewhere as arranged*
7. It is easy to ____________ in a non-challenging environment like this where all workers adhere to a rigid routine.	*become lazy*
8. George always ____________ for me when I'm in trouble; a friend in need is a friend indeed.	*support, defend*
9. Joan ____________ this car model and won't consider any other models.	*think highly of, value*
10. Everybody says that I ____________ my father in many ways, not only in looks but in our mannerisms as well.	*resemble*
11. "____________ your hand and I'll give you a penny," said my grandfather.	*extend or hold out straight*
12. Don't ____________ too late! You still have school tomorrow.	*remain out of bed*
13. The supporters were willing to ____________ for the candidates they believed in during the election.	*defend, support*
14. She was so ____________ in the discussion that she forgot to have lunch.	*engrossed*
15. Miss Tang is no longer responsible for this project as she has already _______ it _______ to someone else.	*assign to another person*

Challenge 25

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. He started out doing sales, but ____________ to other roles over the years. *develop a new area*
2. Sophia ____________ for the upcoming marathon by jogging everyday. *get ready, prepare*
3. The spectators ____________ when the race starts to give moral support to the participants. *encourage with cheers during a race or game*
4. The warehouse was ____________ of pirated VCDs before the police arrived. *stripped empty*
5. The laboratory ____________ the knowledge and expertise of the scientists to come up with this new drug. *use as a resource*
6. Do ____________ when you're free, do not feel shy for you are always welcome here. *visit a place, person casually*
7. The gold coins are ____________ in a treasure chest, so you'll have to find the key to it first. *make safe by locking up*
8. ____________ for any vehicles before you cross the road. *watch for*
9. The lawyer ____________ the defendant, compelling him to admit to the crime. *make a person agree*
10. Mrs Brown is a highly-strung woman who always gets ____________ over trivial matters. *agitated, irritated*
11. Once the leads are ____________, the detective will be able to crack the case. *put together*
12. Being compassionate citizens, everyone ____________ to help Mrs Brown find her lost child. *join to make a contribution*
13. She has no confidence because her parents always ______ her ______. *criticise and make to someone feel stupid*
14. He ______ himself ______ in the attic whenever he is depressed, refusing to hear advice from anybody. *isolate*
15. Rocky was ____________ a rude shock when he returned from an overseas trip to find his house in shambles. *realise that you have been involved in a difficult situation*

Challenge 26

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Mrs Wong needs to buy more groceries at the supermarket before her food storage ____________. *use up with none left*
2. The team from Anderson Secondary has ____________ the Anglo Chinese boys in rugby. *gain a victory against*
3. The team leader has to ____________ his team members to spur them on one last time before the race. *gather together*
4. The stuboorn man refuses to listen to the salesgirl's explanation and instead ______ her ______ roughly. *push away*
5. After ____________ for many years, Mr Wong is finally able to buy a house. *work laboriously and continuously*
6. It is no wonder that there are so many shoppers at the Great Singapore Sale as prices are ____________ during this period. *reduce drastically*
7. Mohan tries to forget all his troubles by ______ the day ______ instead of facing up to reality. *get rid of by sleeping*
8. Please ____________ the examination questions from this stack of paper. *separate*
9. Participants have to ____________ at the registration counter before attending the seminar. *sign one's arrival in a register*
10. To ____________ this book, Jenny surfed the Internet by using the title of the publication as the keyword. *seek, find out*
11. Hazel tries to ____________ the unpleasant memories of her unhappy childhood that has kept her depressed for many years. *get rid of*
12. You need to ____________ the form personally in order for the application to be processed. *submit*
13. Ashley has ____________ with his long-time girifriend and is feeling depressed now. *quarrel*
14. He has to take the right medicine to ____________ the poison in him. *expel*
15. You deserve to be ____________ for creating so much trouble and causing so much inconvenience to all of us. *scold, criticise*

Challenge 27

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Little Jaslyn __________ high fever and had to be admitted to hospital last night. *became ill from*
2. Pimples __________ heavily on Christine's face whenever she is stressed and she has to consult a doctor. *emerge*
3. The patient was finally __________ after resuscitation by the health-care worker. *revive*
4. The car __________ at the edge of the cliff and the driver hops out of the vehicle in time. *halt*
5. Due to budget constraints, we have to __________ on our monthly expenses. *reduce*
6. My sister __________ non-stop about her new-found boyfriend as soon as I stepped into the house. *say quickly without thinking*
7. The irrelevant matter was __________ when Terence brought it up at the meeting. *treat as unimportant*
8. Recession, inflation or other economic distress can ______ a government ______. *defeat or overthrow*
9. The seriously-injured man was given a jab of anaesthesia to __________ his pain. *become less painful*
10. It is unethical to __________ the referee at any competition as all players should compete fairly. *bribe*
11. After many days of rest, I __________ to take a stroll and stretch my limbs. *arise (from bed)*
12. Don't __________ your food! Eat slowly or you might choke. *swallow quickly*
13. Bags of groceries were __________ to the elderly at the care centre. *distribute*
14. There are several matters I have to __________ before handling this trivial problem. *attend to*
15. The naughty girl was __________ because of her notorious behaviour. *dismiss*

Challenge 28

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. After being caught holding another man's hand, the incident __________ the rumour that Robbie was a gay. *start or begin*
2. Even though my vacation in Europe has ______ me ______ by a few thousand dollars, it was well worth it. *cost a person a lot of money*
3. The chairman is __________ the rights of the members of the society. *represent*
4. It is impolite to __________ to your elders, especially when they are offering you good advice. *argue rudely with*
5. You are welcome to __________ any questions during the Q&A session. *raise, bring to notice*
6. Our supply of rice was __________ heavily during the Japanese occupation. *cut back or reduce drastically*
7. The misunderstanding __________ a series of disputes between the couple which caused the divorce eventually. *start a chain of events*
8. Debbie manages to ______ her boyfriend ______ from his depression by telling him motivational stories. *get away from a state*
9. The teacher can hardly __________ the illegible handwriting of the students as they use computers most of the time. *understand, recognise*
10. Mr Ang was really __________ when he learnt that his wife was having an affair. *worked up, excited*
11. Hardly anyone listens to cassette tapes anymore nowadays. They have __________ with time. *cease to be fashionable*
12. To buy a new flat, Patricia has to __________ the costs involved and work out the amount she has to save. *estimate*
13. After the traffic accident, part of the road was __________ so that the civil defence officers can render aid to the victims. *obstruct*
14. Kenneth refuses to __________ to Keith's unreasonable demands even though the latter threatens to use violence on him. *agree to obey*
15. I will __________ you another day as I'm busy right now. *keep in contact*

Challenge 29

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The restaurant was __________ in red embellishment according to the theme of the Chinese wedding that night. *decorate*
2. All the fishes that Mrs Ng bought has __________ except for one. *die one by one*
3. You can always __________ Kristy to do the job as she is a conscientious worker. *depend on*
4. I happened to __________ the book I had been fervently searching for in a bookstore overseas. *find by chance*
5. Vicky is unable to return home in time because something __________ at the last minute. *arise unexpectedly*
6. If you __________ adopting this attitude, you will never be able to make new breakthroughs. *continue*
7. The diffident rabbit __________ whenever there are strangers around. *retreat, withdraw*
8. The nurse gives her patient an anaesthetic jab to __________ his pain. *become less painful*
9. Years of incessant smoking has __________ his lungs, resulting in cancerous cells in his organs. *destroy by harmful substances*
10. Edmund ______ Sharon ______ by disclosing to us that she was the culprit in this incident. *betray*
11. Bernard has been __________ Esther for many years without success. *try to win the heart of*
12. "__________ until it's time to let go," the sage advised the troubled man. *wait*
13. The bridesmaid has to arrive early as she has to __________ at her best friend's wedding. *assist as much as possible*
14. The postman has been __________ delivering mails and parcels regardless of the weather condition. *move from place to place*
5. T traffic police ordered Mr Stevenson to __________ his car at the junction for a security check. *stop at a particular place*

Challenge 30

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Daniel __________ the pros and cons of implementing this new policy. *show, indicate*
2. Desks are __________ in the examination hall to prevent students from cheating. *set out with regular spaces in between*
3. There is no need to ______ things ______ so explicitly as long as both parties have mutual understanding. *explain clearly and simply*
4. It is futile to __________ on meaningless issues like this. *argue continuously*
5. The salesman __________ another free gift to entice his customers to buy more. *give something in addition*
6. The kind-hearted boss ______ his workers ______ before winding up his company. *pay a person wages and discharge him*
7. You have to __________ this portion of the card to find out if you are the winner. *get out by scratching*
8. Thomas has __________ the song he specially wrote for the Talent Contest. *submit to proper authority*
9. Clara has __________ more responsibilities after being promoted to a manager. *undertake work*
10. Several areas can still be __________ before coming up with the final product. *improve the performance of*
11. Don't ______ yourself ______ now as you are already sick. *completely exhaust*
12. Several valuable paintings have been __________ on the walls of the gallery. *put in a frame to display*
13. This issue will be __________ at the meeting where we can discuss further. *continue from where it has stopped*
14. To __________ evil spirits, Madam Soh has idols displayed around her house. *drive away something*
15. After __________ the consequences, I decided to forgo this proposal and focus on the other project instead. *consider carefully*

Challenge 31

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The passengers were alarmed when the plane was unable to ______ due to the thick fog. *land*
2. Mr Seng has ______ gardening since he retired from the workforce. *start as a hobby*
3. You need to ______ the colours of your painting as it looks too bright. *reduce, quieten down*
4. The old tree has ______ during the storm, causing massive traffic jam. *fall over sideways*
5. Business will ______ after we gain the trust of our customers. *become established*
6. When I enquired about the matter, Desmond merely ______ and refused to discuss any further. *dismiss with a shrug*
7. Jane has ______ pink dresses long ago. She is no longer a little girl. *become unsuitable for*
8. The spiteful manager ______ his worker whenever he has the chance. *criticise adversely*
9. The chef ______ delicacies like abalone and sharks' fin everyday for guests at the Chinese restaurant. *prepare and serve*
10. Leslie has stage fright and ______ of the show at the last minute. *withdraw*
11. My mother doesn't like the way I ______ her ______ as she sees it as an act of defiance. *retaliate*
12. The purple gown on display really ______ my heart ______ and I resolve to save enough so that I can purchase it. *long desperately for*
13. She suddenly ______ that she has been robbed, alarming the people around her. *shout, exclaim*
14. The incense papers have ______ in the metal box and turned into ashes. *destroy by flame*
15. Please ______ all the rubbish before the next class comes in and do not leave any mess behind. *remove*

Challenge 32

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The near-fatal incident has ______ a remarkable change in the way she approaches her life. *cause to happen*
2. "Please ______ any suggestions you may have for the party," urged the committee leader to his members. *contribute or participate in*
3. The lid of this bottle has ______, causing a spillover of the beverage. *become detached*
4. We are waiting for the important guests who are now ______ to the carpark. *arrive in a car*
5. The colours of this shirt have ______ after much washing. *become faint*
6. In case anything unfortunate happens to me, there is still some money to ______. *make use of in an emergency*
7. After much contemplation, Charlene has decided to ______ Dentistry at the university. *specialise in*
8. The concert ______ with a guitar performance before the other programmes roll out. *begin, start*
9. It was difficult to ______ them because they had a good start in this race. *keep in pace with*
10. Due to stiff competition, we were ______ in the first round by our strong opponents. *eliminate from a competition*
11. There is no point ______ to the past as what is done cannot be undone. *hold tightly*
12. The new recruits ______ when the corporal entered the room for inspection. *keep silent*
13. I am embarrassed to invite my friends over as my room is so ______. *untidy*
14. They were not allowed to ______ the party as they were not invited. *participate*
15. She has been ______ bed for several days since suffering from a bout of fever. *stay in bed*

Challenge 33

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. ______ so that you can enjoy yourself to the fullest instead of getting stressed up unnecessarily. *relax*
2. When I ______ at my life, there are no regrets because I've done whatever I want to do over the years. *recall*
3. The show was ______ by the poor performance by the cast and the lousy plot. *make a mistake which causes something to be ruined*
4. We have to ______ the problem before it becomes a crisis. *control*
5. This antique is ______ by my grandmother and has great sentimental value to us. *hand down*
6. My little sister likes to ______ whenever I have a conversation with my mother. *interrupt, meddle*
7. Trying to ______ his grandchildren is difficult for this old man. *give chase*
8. She is finally able to ______ on her work after all those disruptive phone calls. *to be calm and composed*
9. It is normal to ______ as you are new to the job, but you'll get better with experience. *make a mistake*
10. In his anger, he ______ all the furniture in the room. *break violently*
11. To ______ all the information within a short span of time is not easy. *absorb*
12. Please ______ the names of the participants according to their groups. *separate or arrange into*
13. The violent husband ______ at his wife whenever he is drunk. *hit wildly at a person*
14. Don't ______ her ______ if you are not interested in her, otherwise you may be accused of being a playboy. *keep one's hopes up*
15. It is time for the President to ______ so that the new candidate can take over. *withdraw, retire*

Challenge 34

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Dr Patterson continues to ______ her profession despite the setbacks that he suffered over the years. *keep working at, persevere*
2. Ivan's suggestion was ______ by his boss at the meeting. *criticise harshly*
3. Please ______ this document before signing it as you will be liable for the contract once you have agreed to it. *examine thoroughly*
4. There is no point ______ like this. You ought to stop whining and start afresh again. *continue*
5. Teddy's infidelity was ______ when his wife returned home one day to find him with his mistress. *exposed*
6. Harris ______ the candles on his cake after his friends sang him a birthday song. *put out a flame by blowing*
7. The police still do not know who ______ the jewellery shop due to a lack of clues. *enter a building by force*
8. Hebe decides to ______ her uncle at the hospital upon learnign that he had a surgery two days ago. *pay a short visit to*
9. I'll ______ in fifteen minutes, so please wait for me. *appear, arrive*
10. The supervisor has to ______ a proposal before the management can consider taking up his marketing plans. *prepare in black and white*
11. We have to ______ the hotel by two o'clock so that we can go for our sightseeing trip after that. *register one's arrival*
12. The two of them were fighting so hard that we have to _____ them _____. *separate*
13. I will ______ you to the doctor; you definitely are too weak to go alone. *accompany*
14. We need to ______ our differences before we can work on this project further. *settle, make clear*
15. "You are ______ the passage. Hardly anyone in class can understand you," the teacher yelled at John. *say or do rather quickly*

Challenge 35

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Joy is able to ______________ the notice at a glance since she knows French. *read quickly or fluently*
2. We don't want to be ______________ two young children on such a long and difficult journey. *being given an unpleasant responsibility*
3. Fandi has been ______________ to attend the seminar which provides him the opportunity to build business contacts. *anticipate eagerly*
4. If you need extra serviettes, you have to ______________ them at the counter. *request*
5. The candidate was ______________ for the interview after the previous candidate had left. *send for*
6. Despite being a reticent person by nature, Julia was able to ______________ her inhibitions to become a successful speaker. *advance greatly*
7. It is so obvious that the bootlicker is trying to ______________ his boss so that he can get a faster promotion. *flatter*
8. Mrs Tan ______________ the salesman's claim that the pot was heat-resistant and parted her money for it. *become keen on, accept as true*
9. It is amazing how Cindy can ______________ stories any time just to cover the misdeeds she has committed. *invent, concoct*
10. We were relieved when Phersal eventually ______________ after having lapsed into a coma for several months. *regain consciousness*
11. It is advisable to ______________ the beehive to avoid being stung. *avoid*
12. Don't ______________ any information that you may find useful. Write them down instead. *omit*
13. Together with his accomplice, the housebreaker ______________ his loot. *escape by bringing*
14. Veronica has been ______________ someone to take care of her all these years, but she has not found anyone suitable. *yearn for*
15. This is a serious matter not to be ______________. You have to settle it as soon as you can. *meddle with*

Challenge 36

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Unable to find any suitable lodging, we decide to ______________ at the empty hut when it gets dark. *get accomodation*
2. The baby has to be ______________ before the neighbours are disturbed from their sleep. *become less noisy*
3. The manager will ______________ the amount of the salesgirls' commission according to the shop's monthly sales. *assess and calculate*
4. The human resource manager ______________ candidates who are unsuitable for the position and only select two appropriate ones. *eliminate*
5. I don't like Jean as she is always trying to ______________ the boss to boost her power in the company. *try to win somebody's approval*
6. To ______________ my presentation, the pros in implementing this policy far outweigh the cons. *express in a few words*
7. Robert decides to try his luck and ______________ in the pub to see if the girl he fancies will drop by. *wait around aimlessly*
8. The kind old man decides to ________ us ________ when we couldn't find any lodging. *receive as lodgers or guests*
9. Everything in the house was ______________ when we reached home. *search thoroughly*
10. In this inexorable organisation, any employee who fails to perform will be ______________. *remove whatever is unwanted*
11. Don't worry. We will ________ this ________ together; we will not leave you in the lurch. *solve a problem*
12. It is time to ______________ as we have a long day ahead tomorrow. *go to bed*
13. The thieves manage to ______________ the police by wearing disguises. *get rid of*
14. She is unable to go overseas as she is ______________ by family commitments. *restrict*
15. The butler has to ______________ the mistress of the house at all times, responding to all her preposterous needs. *serve*

Challenge 37

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Rena __________ the offer of working in Japan because he wants the overseas exposure. *accept a chance, offer eagerly*
2. The judges ______ him ______ to see if he has the potential to become a superstar. *judge, assess*
3. It is time to __________ our differences and work together. *disregard*
4. The teacher __________ his books angrily and glared at the mischievous boy. *put something down violently*
5. Cynthia ______ herself ______ whenever she is in a bad mood and refuses to communicate with anyone. *stop talking*
6. We have to __________ our booth at the exhibition to attract more customers. *increase in size*
7. I have to __________ my insurance agent later to discuss about my policy. *to be together at a certain place*
8. The passers-by __________ at the injured man but no one bothers to help. *watch without taking part*
9. "Let's __________ one of these days and perhaps go for a meal to catch up on old times," my mum suggested to her former classmates. *meet informally*
10. The wheelchair was __________ the lift and we were unable to pull it out. *be unable to move in any direction*
11. Madam Phua has to __________ with a crutch after she broke her leg. *walk with difficulty*
12. The salesman decides to __________ some freebies in order to entice the housewives to buy more pots and pans. *add as gifts*
13. The big bully was taken by surprise when little Simon __________ at him. *return a blow*
14. Jonathon decides to let the job offer __________ since he has no time to consider it carefully. *go past, disregard*
15. Not wanting to find a job, the lazy man just ______ his time ______. *waste by idling*

Challenge 38

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. The notice was __________ on the board at noon, informing all participants that the event had been postponed. *make public*
2. The humble woman ______ herself ______, not wanting any credit for her efforts. *cause to appear less important*
3. The investigator __________ with the murder suspect to unearth more information about the case. *make a connection with*
4. Never ______ your ideas ______ us. You have to convince us in a credible way. *force onto*
5. She __________ that this is the best solution and decides to take up this alternative. *arrive at a conclusion after analysing*
6. The train __________ of the station at five in the morning and will reach its next destination three hours later. *leave, depart*
7. Be careful not to pour too much water into the cup as it will __________. *overflow*
8. The couple has __________ after the incessant quarrelling and fighting. *separate, divide*
9. The squirrels have __________ enough food to last them through the winter. *accumulate for future use*
10. This restaurant is famous for __________ quality food at affordable prices. *prepare, cook a meal*
11. Perry decides to __________ from home after the fight with his wife. *remain elsewhere*
12. Captain Jack decides to __________ the treasure on Soloman Island after studying the map. *look for, find*
13. The washing machine has been __________ after so many years. *weakened through frequent use*
14. We are __________ by her enthusiasm and sincerity and decide to award her with the contract. *gain support*
15. Madam Lee is a brave woman who __________ despite suffering from a lung cancer. *continue to live*

Challenge 39

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. Don't ______ your breakfast in such haste. You might choke. *swallow down hungrily*

2. Lydia ______ her anger in a positive way by attending yoga classes at the gym. *get rid of*

3. The sly man ______ the password from the innocent girl so that he can access the confidential database. *find out by devious means*

4. Remember to ______ to the channel tonight for there is media coverage of the event that I attended earlier on. *switch on radio, TV*

5. She ______ the questions she doesn't know how to answer before returning to them later. *pass over for the next*

6. We like to ______ at the pub after work to socialise and de-stress. *relax*

7. The meat has to be ______ before it can be cooked. *melt, unfreeze*

8. She has ______ a liking ______ bowling ever since her friends introduced her to the hobby two years ago. *start to like*

9. We have to ______ the terrorists from our soil before they overrule us. *destroy*

10. Students are taught since young that the symbols on the country's flag ______ peace and unity. *represent*

11. The proposal is ______ after several rounds of amendments and meetings with the relevant parties. *improve*

12. Raymond ______ in the crowd because of his height and it makes him very uncomfortable and self-conscious. *attract attention*

13. Remember to ______ the dirty plates after having your dinner. *clean dishes after a meal*

4. You can no longer ______ the clock, so stop moaning and focus on your life ahead! *turn in reverse direction*

5. The nervous participant starts to ______ after a while and no longer stammers in front of the audience. *be at ease after sometime*

Challenge 40

Fill in the correct phrasal verb in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. We were ______ the premises by a surly caretaker who sat on a chair by the rusty gates. *instruct to stay away*

2. Robert ______ petrol at the gas station on Sunday before making a trip across the causeway. *fill up again*

3. Cassandra ______ that she can't take the heat anymore before collapsing in front of us. *shout*

4. Dylan ______ his girlfriend ______ to dinner whenever he doesn't have to work overtime at the office. *invite out*

5. To ______ the cockroaches, he sprays insecticide. *kill, destroy*

6. "Forgive me for ______, but I really have something urgent to report," said the private to the captain. *interrupt*

7. The old building ______ after years of ravage, killing thousands of people. *collapse*

8. The construction worker used cement to ______ the hole in the wall. *seal*

9. Mr Heng's sports shop has been ______ because he could not afford the fifty percent rental increase set by the landlord. *shut permanently*

10. Abbas ______ of the house, without realising that he has forgotten to bring his keys. *emerge*

11. After a heated argument, Mr Soo decides to buy his wife a diamond necklace to ______ her ______. *make a person less angry*

12. Please ______ me ______ if you are going on the excursion as I would be on an overseas trip. *exclude*

13. The factory is now ______ with the latest equipment and ready for production. *supply with everything needed*

14. Thankfully, everyone ______ of the building before it collapsed. *leave quickly*

15. All irrelevant sentences have to be ______ so that the essay can be more concise. *remove what is not wanted*

Challenge 1

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. the odds stacked against
2. the writing on the wall
3. heads will roll
4. put your money where your mouth is
5. a chip of the old block
6. a snake in the grass
7. no room to swing the cat
8. haven't the foggiest idea
9. the makings of
10. made a dent in
11. in the doldrums
12. a stone's throw away
13. strait-laced
14. is Greek to
15. getting into the swing of things

1. I recalled that our governess, a ⑬ lady, was very strict with us when we were in our adolescent days. Strait-Laced
2. Be careful of Parry who has suddenly become friendly with you. He may have ulterior motives and could be ⑥. a Snake in the grass
3. We don't have to walk far. The shopping centre is just ⑫. at ~~a~~ ston's throw away.
4. When I look at Junior Bob, he reminds me of his father. He is just like ⑤ a chip of the old same blol
5. During the Asian financial crisis, the economies of many countries were in the ⑪.
6. Don't expect George to be able to repair your car as even changing a tyre is ⑭ him. greek to
7. Despite having all ① us, we still have to give our very best in this competition.
8. These credit card bills have certainly ⑩ my pocket; I have to pay the bank back every month with my limited salary.
9. This bar is unpopular because it is so small that there is ⑦, let alone for the customers to dance to the music.
10. It took me a really long time to get use to the different culture and customs of this city, but I am ⑮ now.
11. I don't know him well. I ⑧ where he lives or what he does for a living.
12. The criminal saw ② and left the country just before the police arrived to arrest him.
13. "We have to succeed in this project, otherwise our ③," warned our supervisor.
14. Given her unique disposition and sexy voice, Sheryl Boey has ⑨ the next superstar.
15. Don't just say this will work out. You need to ④ and fulfil your promise.

Challenge 2

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. on a slippery slope
2. rocket science
①*3. paying through the nose*
4. played her last card
5. red tape
6. scratched the surface of it
7. be on the take
②*8. be a pipe dream*
9. burning question
10. a free rein
11. tighten our purse strings
12. one swallow doesn't make a summer
13. stand you in good stead
③*14. roll with the punches*
15. mend your fence

1. Mr Lee has been 3 all these years for his son's education with the money he earned.
2. I would love to save enough money and take time off to travel around the world, but I know that this will only 8.
3. The contestants have to 14, facing cynical and highly critical remarks from the judges, media and the public.
4. We need to 11 this month because our expenses have far exceeded our budget, otherwise we may end up with no savings soon.
5. Give this talented man 10 and you'll be surprised what he can come up with.
6. Since losing his job in the recession, Desmond's financial situation is on a ~~13~~. 1
7. Attending night classes to upgrade yourself will ~~12~~ 13 when there is a promotion ahead.
8. Although we have got through this time round, please remember that ~~6~~. 12
9. Kristal thinks that she knows everything about this project, but she has just ~~13~~. 6
10. It is still not too late to 15 with Jean. We can seek rapprochement with her in a letter expressing our penitence.
11. You have to be ready to go through a lot of ~~4~~ 5 if you want to start a business in many former communist countries.
12. It is puzzling why he has so much money all of a sudden. He may ~~2~~. 7
13. This topic is not 2. You can grasp it within a week if you are a keen learner.
14. As more couples are opting to have only one child, the 9 for the new Prime Minister is how to solve the problem of an ageing population.
15. Having failed to win sympathy from the judge by various methods, Hebe 4 by pretending to weep pitifully in front of the jury.

Challenge 3

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. go off the deep end
2. dead on your feet
3. shooting from the hip
4. Hobson's choice
5. are cut from the same cloth
6. frayed at the edges
7. get your feathers ruffled up
8. do justice
9. got the drift
10. a chip on her shoulder
11. a loose cannon
12. his days are numbered
13. stuffing his face
14. a close shave
15. full of holes

1. Keep your guard against the desperate woman who is like _____ now. We don't know what she will do next.
2. That was indeed _____! My little brother nearly drowned in the pool if not for the lifeguard.
3. Be careful not to mention about her ex-husband. She has _____ about this.
4. It's _____ - either we merge with the other company, or we'll be declared bankrupt.
5. Don't assume that all graduates _____. I am not a snob like them.
6. The old man, knowing that _____, decides to make a will.
7. Even though she hasn't finished her presentation, we _____ of what she wants to say.
8. After numerous setbacks, her confidence is now _____ and nothing we say can make her stand on her feet again.
9. Don't upset her anymore. She can _____ any minute because she is mentally unstable.
10. He just sat there, _____ as if he had not eaten for weeks.
11. You must be _____ after having spent so many sleepless nights on this project.
12. You should learn to be more relaxed, for there is no need to _____ for something as trivial as this.
13. His proposal was not accepted because its business model is _____ and is not feasible in this competitive market.
14. Pardon me for _____, but I need to say this even though you may not like to hear it.
15. This negative review does not _____ to the poor company because its staff have been working very hard.

Challenge 4

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided a comfortable vibe

✓ *1. bat an eyelid*
✓ *2. thrown down the gauntlet*
✓ *3. lives high on the hog*
✓ *4. skating on thin ice*
✓ *5. ill at ease*
✓ *6. casts an eye over*
7. the lesser of two evils
8. within her hearing
9. on his high horse
10. at the expense of
✓ *11. born under a lucky star*
✓ *12. no mean feat*
✓ *13. on the wane*
14. no holds barred
15. put the genie back in the bottle

1. You shouldn't say those words _____. She might be hurt by the insensitive remarks.
2. Her career has been _____ since the scandal broke out with negative coverage of her by the media everyday.
3. The Vice President is now _____ after certain members of congress questioned his authoritative power in this matter.
4. Wendy, in her eagerness to impress others, is always _____ when she meets her superiors.
5. She must be _____ to have such a blissful family life with a loving husband and filial children.
6. Terence _____ the papers and quickly picks up the relevant information from the news article.
7. He doesn't want to meet his quarrelsome wife, so he decides to spend the night in his car. This is may be _____ despite the discomfort he might face in his vehicle.
8. The wealthy man did not even _____ when he paid thousands of dollars to purchase the rare Picasso painting at the auction.
9. It is not right to marry your daughter off simply for riches, _____ her happiness.
10. Trying to swim ten laps at one go is _____ to Cecilia who hardly exercises so vigorously.
11. The King has _____ that whoever wins the duel can marry the Princess and be his successor.
12. You shouldn't shoot your mouth off over things like that. Now, it is difficult to _____.
13. With so much wealth at his fingertips, the tycoon _____. He even has a toilet bowl made of pure gold.
14. Despite their social differences, the two men are able to converse with _____.
15. Don't try _____ anymore. You'll be putting yourself in jeopardy.

Challenge 5

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. put a sock in it
2. by the sweat of his brow
3. got off a flying start
4. scared of his own shadow
5. back at square one
6. a Freudian slip
7. got the problem licked
8. lined their own pockets
9. plays the field
10. pick the tab for
11. take the plunge
12. larger than life
13. had a soul of kindness
14. taken, by storm
15. blow your mind

1. Now that we've _____, we can focus on getting the orders out.
2. Being the founding father of an independent India, M. Gandhi is a _____ to a vast majority of Indians.
3. The corrupted government officials were eventually overthrown because they had _____ with money from taxpayers like us.
4. Although I haven't done something as alien as this, I am willing to _____.
5. After a couple of drinks, Marian gives _____ that she loves Thomas.
6. A flirt by nature, Bobby prefers _____ and has no long-term plans of settling down in a marriage.
7. You two had better _____, otherwise there'll be no dinner for the both of you.
8. Mother Theresa _____ and was widely respected for her unselfish acts.
9. Harry Potter has _____ the United Kingdom and other countries _____ with outstanding book and movie sales.
10. The hardworking man has earned whatever he has now _____. His success is not due to a stroke of luck.
11. The insurance company is willing to _____ the repair costs involved.
12. With a good management team and ample funds, our company _____.
13. We want to improve our corporate image to suit the younger generation, but the new design is disastrous, so we are _____.
14. The high tech visual and sound effects in this movie will definitely _____ out.
15. When the little boy first started school, he was _____ and didn't make any friends.

Challenge 6

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. stick-in-the-mud
2. a double-edged sword
3. beat the system
4. laughing up his sleeve
5. shooting in the dark
6. sends shivers down my spine
7. no stone unturned
8. a slap in the face
9. still waters run deep
10. do it in my sleep
11. on a shoestring
12. put your shoulder to the wheel
13. talk of the town
14. a clean slate
15. water off a duck's back

1. The haunting music drifting from the basement below _____ and sets the right mood for Halloween.
2. As graduating students with hardly any savings, we went to Europe _____ budget.
3. With no clues as to where the terrorists went, the soldiers were just _____.
4. You can get the degree if you decide to _____ and persevere in your studies.
5. The salesman is _____ because housewives are paying thousands of dollars for the useless products he sells.
6. Don't worry, I've done this so many times that I can _____ with hardly any effort.
7. After carrying a torch for Thomas all these years, his blunt rejection of her love was like _____ for her.
8. He wants to start with _____ in a new company where nobody knows about his past misdeeds.
9. Ever hopeful for a miracle, we will leave _____ in our efforts to rescue the victims.
10. My father is a _____ who cannot accept people who go for fashion statements such as tattoos or piercing.
11. The simple village girl became the _____ when people found out that she was being courted by Prince.
12. He may seem like an aloof person, but _____. He helps out at the old folks home every weekend.
13. He remains resolute in spite of her rude remarks. They were like _____ to him.
14. Fame is like _____. It can bring you status and money, but also means a loss of privacy.
15. Even though latecomers were not allowed in the theatre, she managed to _____.

Challenge 7

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. go through the mill
2. lose heart
3. puts me on my mettle
4. stand the test of time
5. eat my heart out
6. some breathing space
7. a piece of my mind
8. tongue in cheek
9. set the world on fire
10. the Midas touch
11. turn the tables on
12. run out of steam
13. steal the thunder from
14. tip of the iceberg
15. makes my toes curl

1. Don't _____ so easily. You should try again until you succeed.
2. If I see that rude woman again, I'll give her _____ and warn her not to do it again.
3. Stop bugging me and give me _____ to think it over before I give you an answer.
4. George was able to _____ his manager by giving an impressive presentation at the meeting, thereby getting his proposal approved.
5. He claimed that his remarks were made _____ and didn't know that people would be offended by them.
6. Judging by the poor box office ratings, this movie won't _____ or get good reviews.
7. Encouragement from her _____ and makes me more determined to come out on top in singing competition.
8. Dylan seems to have _____, reaping profits in whatever investments he makes.
9. The food reviews featured in this magazine really make me want to _____. I wish I could try them all the food!
10. He doesn't want to _____ of having a divorce, so he decides to give his wife a second chance.
11. Sally was very enthusiastic about the project at first, but she seems to have _____ now.
12. The quality products that we produce will definitely _____. They will not break down easily.
13. The supporting actress manages to _____ the lead actress with her magnificent performance.
14. Whenever I think of that embarrassing incident, it _____ and my face just turns red.
15. What we have covered so far is just the _____. There is so much more that we have not touched upon.

Challenge 8

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. birds of a feather flock together
2. French leave
3. a second bite at the cherry
4. to save my life
5. in an ivory tower
6. quite cut the mustard
7. the movers and shakers
8. be in two minds about
9. trim its sails
10. touched a raw nerve
11. overstep your mark
12. under the influence of
13. brought to book
14. shaking in my boots
15. one man's meat is another man's poison

1. The company has decided to _____ and reduce its budget to tide over the bad times. The staff fully understand and support the management's decision.
2. Don't _____ this. You have to decide which one to pick now.
3. It is not for us to decide as we are not _____ of the organisation, but just ordinary lower level employees.
4. Other shops have tried to come up with versions of our product, but they never _____.
5. Being called out as an ex-convict in public must have _____ with him.
6. The philosopher, who is obsessed with his theories, lives _____ all his life.
7. Don't take what she said to heart. She was probably _____ drugs and had no idea that she was being abusive.
8. It is amazing how she loves the job I used to hate. This is certainly a case of _____.
9. Be careful not to _____ by making offensive remarks in the meeting and risk antagonising the board directors.
10. There is no point in me learning how to drive. I can't read maps _____.
11. "You are not supposed to take _____ even if something urgent crops up," the human resource manager said to the new staff.
12. Those funky teenagers hang out at the disco everyday. _____!
13. Even though he has failed this time, you ought to give him _____ instead of reprimanding him.
14. Litterbugs are _____ to ensure that they don't pollute the environment again.
15. I was just putting on a brave front. In fact, I was _____ and scared beyond words.

Challenge 9

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. giving me the cold shoulder
2. the gift of the gab
3. going under the knife
4. a chicken-hearted fellow
5. under the thumb of
6. being born with a silver spoon in his mouth
7. going off at a tangent
8. a white elephant
9. a wild goose chase
10. a red letter day
11. the naked eye
12. a slow coach
13. cold comfort
14. a greenhorn
15. at the drop of a hat

1. The police goes on _____, not knowing that the robbers have already escaped by sea.
2. The insect is so small that you can't see it with _____. You need a microscope to view it.
3. She is still _____ in this area, but given the right encouragement, she can go far.
4. We need to pick _____ for our wedding as we are superstitious and want our marriage to be held on an auspicious day.
5. Don't be _____! Such tardiness will do you no good if you want to go far in an organisation where efficiency counts.
6. What my mother said provided _____ to me, making me more miserable than before.
7. Being _____, the cowardly Larry will never have the guts to sing in public.
8. Ever since the dispute last week, Keith has been _____ by ignoring my presence during class.
9. The submissive Danny is _____ his wife and gives in to all her whims and fancies.
10. _____, David never sees the need to work, but gallivants his life away with other delinquents.
11. It is difficult to engage in a sensible discussion on this issue with Angel as she keeps _____.
12. The tycoon only realised that the antique stone lion was _____ after he had bidded for it at the auction.
13. To be the top salesman for the month, you need to have _____ and sell your products and services in a convincing manner.
14. The clown is fantastic! He can change costumes _____. Even the children were impressed by his amazing feat.
15. Poor Helen will be _____ at the hospital to remove her appendicitis, so she will be unable to attend the party tonight.

Challenge 10

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1 an iron hand
2. the'small hours
3. light-fingered person
4. left to my own devices
5. golden opportunity
6. at his wits' end
7. by rule of thumb
8. be out of sorts
9. in the air
10. on guard
11. cock and bull story
12. a slip of his tongue
13. a queer fish
14. pricked up his ears
15. a Jack of all trades

1. Fiona seems to _____ today, making so many mistakes in her work.
2. In _____, Robert lets out the secret and everybody is aware of it now.
3. _____, workers in this company report to work at eight in the morning. Any time after that and they will be considered as latecomers.
4. The old man is _____, talking to himself all day in the park.
5. The manager is _____ now that his most trusted assistant has resigned all of a sudden.
6. News that Ricky will be promoted is _____, even though there is no official announcement from the management yet.
7. Mrs Brown has to be _____ to make sure that her naughty son doesn't do anything bizarre in the museum.
8. This is a _____ not to be missed! Such chances do not come by easily.
9. My father rules the family with _____. We have to be home by ten every night.
10. Nobody will be so stupid as to believe Joseph's _____ because he has a reputation for always making things up.
11. We were so engaged in our conversation that we didn't realise that we had talked into _____ of the night.
12. You can ask Eric for help. He is _____ and knows a little of everything.
13. Watch over the cash register for any _____. They may pilfer at our shop for all you know.
14. Nobody helped me when I first joined the company. I was _____ and doing everything independently.
15. Adam _____ as soon as I mentioned Helen, his secret lover.

Challenge 11

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. made a beeline
2. a dime to a dozen
3. come to grips
4. mind your Ps and Qs
5. burnt her bridges
6. light at the end of the tunnel
7. at daggers drawn
8. at the end of my tether
9. gone the way of all flesh
10. a bone of contention
11. bells and whistles
12. biting off more than you can chew
13. lost his marbles
14. a fine-tooth comb
15. putting the cart before the horse

1. _____ when you meet Aunt June later. She is very particular about manners.
2. All may seem bleak now, but if you persevere long enough, you will eventually see the _____.
3. Tell me if you can't handle the report. _____ will be disastrous and you might breakdown mentally.
4. The shopaholics _____ for the Great Singapore Sale once they alighted from the bus.
5. The delicate packaging merely adds _____ to the product, but it costs more compared to one that is stripped of embellishment.
6. Whether euthanasia should be made legal has been _____ for many years; many people still debate on this topic.
7. She has _____ of a promotion after quarrelling with her boss and thus, getting into her bad books.
8. We shouldn't be setting up a business before planning. It will be like _____.
9. The burglars went through the house with _____ but were still unable to find the rare painting.
10. After the hot dispute, they are now _____ to each other and refuse to speak to each other when they meet.
11. Places that sell ordinary herbal jelly are _____, but to find one that sells the authentic version of the dessert is rare.
12. I can't deal with the stress at work anymore. I am _____ and don't know how to handle this predicament.
13. It took her years to _____ with the fact that her only son was dead.
14. Alex seems to have _____; he is yelling at whoever passes by him.
15. They eventually decided that the suspect they were searching for years must have _____.

Challenge 12

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. fell on stony ground
2. stole a march on
3. going through a sticky patch
4. lives from hand to mouth
5. grinds to a halt
6. holding the fort
7. having it out with
8. are in the pipeline
9. Archilles' heel
10. whetted my appetite
11. a blind alley
12. hell-bent on
13. paying lip service
14. the icing on the cake
15. nail her colours to the mast

1. Laura is a very vocal girl who dares to _____ by saying what she thinks.
2. Their marriage is _____ at the moment and they may end up getting a divorce.
3. That old lady _____, collecting cardboards for a living and eating leftover food.
4. The cranky machine _____ and eventually broke down, thus affecting the rate of production.
5. After _____ with the shopkeeper, Ivan manages to get his money back.
6. It is despicable of him to attack Winnie's _____ which was her weak command of Mandarin during the meeting.
7. Listening to their travel accounts in Nepal certainly has _____ to go there one day.
8. To my father, venturing into fashion design business is just turning into _____. He disapproves of it strongly.
9. She is _____ going to London to study Engineering despite her parents' disapproval.
10. It is understandable for Sean to feel despondent after all his plans _____.
11. With most of the workers taking annual leave off, it'll be just me and my secretary _____ in the company.
12. Getting a commission is just _____. We promise a big bonus if you bring in the sales.
13. To boost sales, we _____ the business next door by embarking on a series of promotional activities at the right time.
14. I hope that you are not just _____ when you say that you will help me out, otherwise you are just being insincere.
15. Plans to install electronic road maps on taxis _____ but are not in place yet.

Challenge 13

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. off the beaten track
2. taking their toll on
3. leave a bad taste in my mouth
4. made a virtue of necessity
5. in the twinkling of an eye
6. let nature take its course
7. put the finishing touches
8. throw in the towel
9. was on tenterhooks
10. singing a different tune
11. bring the house down
12. there is more than meets the eye
13. eyes at the back of my head
14. feather in my cap
15. went all out of her way

1. Once we _____ to the decorations, the hall will be ready for the wedding.

2. After several unsuccessful attempts to revive his business, he decides to _____ and wind up his shop.

3. We had agreed to register our new company as a partnership, but now he is _____ and wants to back out.

4. I thought she was next to me, but _____, she had disappeared!

5. They had wanted to go to the beach, but because of the rain, they _____ and decided to watch VCDs indoors instead.

6. To get into her boss's good books, Lydia _____ to please him.

7. Don't you think that her sudden change of behaviour is puzzling? I'm sure _____.

. The backpacker dislikes tour packages, but prefers to travel to places _____ instead.

. Matthew _____ while waiting for the results of his examination as he badly wanted to enter the university.

0. The thought of people spending sleepless nights queuing for soft toys _____.

. They are just beginning to know each other, so _____ and see how the relationship goes.

. All those sleepless nights doing research are _____ the professor and he finally collapses from exhaustion.

He is a spectacular performer who can _____ anytime with his funny antics.

Winning today's tennis tournament would be a _____ as I've trained for it every single day for almost five months.

“No, I didn't hear about this rumour. I don't have _____ and I hardly gossip,” my neighbour said.

Challenge 14

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. wipe the grin off his face
2. in the heat of the moment
3. till the cows come home
4. make the first move
5. keep up with the Joneses'
6. biting the dust
7. grinning from ear to ear
8. braved the elements
9. rushed off my feet
10. hold his ground
11. stew in her own juice
12. let the grass grow under your feet
13. tugged at my heartstrings
14. scot-free
15. leave the sinking ship

1. Due to poor location, many businesses along Traipse Street are _____ everyday.

2. The older of the two naughty brothers was punished by their father, but the younger boy got away _____.

3. My mother was so happy when I got married that she was _____ on my wedding day.

4. In order to eke out a living, the fisherman _____ just to bring in the dough for his family.

5. Friday will be a bad time to meet because I'll be _____ doing reports and attending meetings.

6. To _____, I made him clear up the mess he created, so that he won't get away with his wilful ways.

7. You ought to start now and don't _____ for the deadline is approaching.

8. Despite numerous objections, Mr Ang decides to _____ and stick to the old plan.

9. The programme featuring underprivileged children in Africa certainly _____ and I decided to adopt one of them.

10. In the drama serial, the protagonist left home _____ after being slapped by his father.

11. A man who was conscious of status, Mr Koh ran into debts after years of trying to _____.

12. This time round, I have decided not to help her. Let her _____ for a while, so that she will learn her lesson.

13. After a bitter quarrel, Candy waited _____ for her boyfriend's phone call, but he never rang her up again.

14. Although Mr Tan feels bad about resigning at this point of time, but he still has to _____ before the company goes bust.

15. Whenever we quarrel, I'll be the one to _____ and ask for a reconciliation.

Challenge 15

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. a house of cards *2. clear the decks* *3. draws the line*
4. crème de la crème *5. feather her nest* *6. gilding the lily*
7. lightning never strikes twice *8. rough diamond* *9. licking her lips*
10. set on the loose *11. hour of need* *12. whistling in the dark*
13. put a damper *14. from the cradle to the grave* *15. has never looked back*

1. Instead of leading an independent life, she decides to _____ by becoming the mistress of the old man.
2. Since he started his own company five years ago, he _____ and his business has since flourished to become the conglomerate that is today.
3. Don't put too many ornaments on the Christmas tree. It'll be like _____ and only create a 'cluttered' look.
4. I didn't make a bet this time round. This is because I believe that _____ and I won't have Lady Luck smiling at me all the time.
5. Christine was _____ the whole day upon learning that she would meet her idol the following day.
6. After completing our examinations, it was like we were _____. We partied till dawn everyday.
7. He is my best friend indeed, comforting me in my _____ and never failing to give me moral support.
8. My company is like _____ with no sense of team spirit. Everyone will leave at the first sign of trouble.
9. She says that she will be able to deal with this, but she's just _____ and has no clue at all.
10. Kenny may appear uncouth, but this _____ can be trusted if you need help.
11. Alice wants to _____, so that her mind can be put at rest before she goes on her vacation.
12. The sudden rain _____ on our plans for a beach party and we had to do something else instead.
13. She has been dating several men, but she _____ when they want to be too intimate with her.
14. Only the _____ will be admitted to this prestigious club and not just anybody.
15. This photo album marks the different stages of her life for it carries numerous pictures of her _____.

Challenge 16

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. keep the flag flying *2. go through the roof* *3. caught in the crossfire*
4. flash in the pan *5. beat a hasty retreat* *6. struck a chord with*
7. working against the clock *8. lost his edge* *9. you can't teach an old dog new tricks*
10. green with envy *11. at the cutting edge* *12. don't get the wrong end of the stick*
13. riding roughshod over *14. fight your own corner* *15. come under fire*

1. Poor Lucy was _____ when her parents split up. This was because she had to choose between living with either her mother or father.
2. Our company leverages on technology that is _____; all of our staff use state-of-the-art equipment.
3. _____. We are not advocating abortion, but merely exploring the possibility of it.
4. Bubble tea is just like a _____. It is now not as popular as before.
5. Despite the lack of funds for this project, we still _____ and remain optimistic.
6. Upon sighting the police, the loansharks decide to _____ and escape.
7. To disregard her opinion in this project would be _____ her. After all, she is the person who thought of the idea in the first place.
8. Sales of abalone and fish maw _____ during the Chinese New Year despite the inordinate prices.
9. The war scenes from the movie _____ the old man who had withstood the turbulence of war-times.
10. We were _____, trying to set up all the dominoes because the competition was brought forward by three days.
11. In this organisation, you will have to learn to _____, or else you will be bullied easily.
12. My grandfather just mastered a new language. Who says _____?
13. Christopher has _____ in winning cycling races after he stopped training for weeks.
14. Phersal was _____ when she heard that her good friend has the leading role in the new movie instead of her.
15. This book has _____ for exploring controversial political issues; many people have criticised against it.

Challenge 17

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. swinging the lead
2. the forbidden fruit
3. come under the hammer
4. the black sheep of the family
5. hit the nail on the head
6. got hot off the press
7. no rhyme or reason
8. digging his own grave
9. got a lump in my throat
10. spike his guns
11. a short fuse
12. his salad days
13. prepare the ground
14. a melting pot
15. lay our hands

1. The teenager decides to take up smoking because _____ is always more attractive.
2. "Don't irritate her! she has _____ and flares up easily when antagonised," my friend advised me.
3. At the charity auction, the Minister's exquisite fountain pen has _____ for a thousand dollars.
4. She is now learning French to _____ for her migration to France later this year.
5. To _____ of winning, his opponent decides to spike his drink with laxative in the hope that he will withdraw from the competition.
6. Thomas knows that borrowing money from loansharks would be _____ but he has no other choice.
7. Our company has been trying to _____ on this business deal since two months ago.
8. When he declared his true feelings for me that day, I _____ and broke down emotionally.
9. Nobody could understand what I wanted, until he _____ and expressed exactly what I had in mind.
10. Two or three of the students working on this project are really keen, but most of the others are _____.
11. The international school is _____ of cultures and nationalities with students from all around the world.
12. It is pointless to stop the journalists now. The news have just _____.
13. He suddenly decides to buy a house by the seaside for _____ even though he has a job in the city.
14. The books he publishes now are far more enriching, compared to those in _____.
15. George was considered _____ when he opted to become a priest, while his siblings became doctors and lawyers.

Challenge 18

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. hold your horses
2. gone bust
3. the school of hard knocks
4. sounded the death knell of
5. another kettle of fish
6. in the fast lane
7. set in his ways
8. water under the bridge
9. variety is the spice of life
10. hold the fort
11. a whale of a time
12. took a back seat
13. cast a shadow over
14. bask in his reflected glory
15. cut the air with a knife

1. Due to poor management, the company has _____ and the boss has to file for bankruptcy.
2. When my brother got the scholarship, our family was happy to _____ and share his honour.
3. Don't be so impatient. _____ and see what happens instead of shooting your mouth off.
4. Even though I just got home, I could _____ that my parents had just had another argument.
5. Her ex-boyfriend was a jerk, but this one is _____ altogether with his gentleman ways.
6. The widespread use of hand phones has _____ pagers; hardly anyone carries a pager nowadays.
7. The business world is _____ where you learn how to outwit your competitors.
8. Tired of living life _____, the pop star retires to live in the quiet countryside.
9. After his son took over the chairman's position, Mr Tan _____ and seldom made management decisions.
10. Memories of her parents' divorce have _____ Priscilla's marriage. She would recall the unhappy times unconsciously.
11. She seems to be having _____ with Marcus at the party, laughing hilariously throughout the night.
12. The old man was so _____ that he refused to listen to anyone's advices and insisted in his own ways.
13. I am a forgiving person. What has happened is already _____ now.
14. Gerald does different things every weekend – gardening, swimming, yoga, etc. After all, _____!
15. "I can't leave my baby alone, so I hired a maid to _____ if I have to go out," the young mother said.

Challenge 19

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *trail-blazing*
2. *not to be sneezed at*
3. *get this straight*
4. *strutting their stuff*
5. *in full swing*
6. *set her sight*
7. *spur of the moment*
8. *dip a toe in the water*
9. *spick and span*
10. *made sparks fly*
11. *the old wives' tale*
12. *covers his track*
13. *skin me alive*
14. *slaving over a stove*
15. *in the throes of*

1. The housebreaker _____ by wearing gloves so that he will not leave any fingerprints behind.
2. Michael Jackson is a _____ pop star who first invented the moonwalking moves.
3. We decided to _____ by trying out the new product on a group of customers before we carried out any agressive promotion in the market.
4. We are _____ preparing for the inter-school debate and are busy collating research materials to formulate our arguments.
5. I don't believe _____ that women who have just given birth should not bathe; this is just a superstitious saying that should not be heeded.
6. On the _____, I decided to buy that dress without batting an eyelid.
7. My mother is very particular about cleanliness. She keeps the house _____.
8. The romance between our two colleagues which had been kept under wraps, _____ in the office when the couple decided to let it out in the open.
9. The fact that our team has finally beaten the defending champion of five years is _____.
10. After she saw those impressive photographs, she _____ on becoming a professional photographer.
11. If my teacher finds out that I'm late again, she will _____ without listening to my explanation.
12. We decided to relieve our mother of _____ by treating her to a dinner on Mother's Day.
13. "Can we _____? Nobody is to leave until we finish this project," my supervisor saiid.
14. The models dressed in the most fashionable design costumes are _____ along the aisle.
15. There is a yoga class _____ at the gym now, so please refrain from entering the room and wait for the next session instead.

Challenge 20

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *her ship comes in*
2. *roll up our sleeve*
3. *good offices*
4. *earned his stripes*
5. *sold her soul*
6. *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*
7. *get under the skin of*
8. *taking steps*
9. *risking·your neck*
10. *stick your oar into*
11. *the final nail in the coffin*
12. *to put in a nutshell*
13. *pull the plug on*
14. *jumped out of her skin*
15. *separate the sheep from the goats*

1. The death of his beloved wife was _____ for Mr Goh. He decided to kill himself to end his lonesome life.
2. It is not worth _____ for this stunt just to earn a few hundred bucks; you may end up hurting yourself.
3. Stop trying to _____ other people's affairs and make a nuisance of yourself.
4. After all that's been said _____, we decided to go ahead with the investment plans.
5. Through my friend's _____, I landed a job in his firm. I ought to thank him for the recommendation.
6. The headquarters decide to _____ the business plan due to a lack of funds.
7. The objective of this interview is to _____; only the most outstanding candidate will be selected.
8. Refusing to lower her expectations of a life partner, Vivian states firmly that she will wait patiently until _____.
9. The actor watches old tapes to _____ his character in the show.
10. When I entered the room quietly and tapped my sister on the shoulder, she nearly _____.
11. It is time for us to _____ and work hard to prepare for the trade show next month.
12. She would have _____ to be the lead actress in that play but unfortunately, the role was not awarded to her.
13. I would love to join you on this holiday, but I am tied up with work. _____.
14. The government is _____ to stop litterbugs from polluting the environment by imposing fines on them.
15. Samuel has _____ in the company, having worked his way up from a clerk to a manager within a period of five years.

Challenge 21

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *set tongues wagging*
2. *with a vengeance*
3. *part of the furniture*
4. *take a gander at*
5. *in dribs and drabs*
6. *went down the drain*
7. *live off the fat of the land*
8. *run like clockwork*
9. *her bark is worse than her bite*
10. *living in a goldfish bowl*
11. *a pep-talk*
12. *shot down in flames*
13. *pipped at the post*
14. *paint the town red*
15. *have a stab*

1. _____ at writing down all your ideas first in the brainstorming session. I shall guide you along after that.
2. The married woman's secret affair with her lover has _____ in the neighbourhood, arousing her husband's suspicion.
3. We decide to _____ tonight by heading to the pub and letting our hair down.
4. Nicky has been a clerk with the company for twenty-five years, so he is _____ now.
5. Mr Lee begins to drink _____ after his divorce, trying to drown all his sorrows.
6. _____ those Christmas lightings! Don't they look beautiful shimmering in the night?
7. There is no point in arguing with my manager. What I say will just be _____.
8. I thought I was going to win the painting competition, but I was _____ at the last minute by another contender.
9. Application forms have been coming _____; certainly not the overwhelming response that we had expected.
10. My efforts _____ as I watched the tide wash away the sandcastle which I had built for the past two hours.
11. Since the pop star achieved stardom two years ago, she has been _____.
12. The rulers _____ by collecting heavy taxes from the farmers while the poor struggle to survive.
13. During recession, morale was rather low in the company, so the director gave all the staff _____.
14. We practise so hard during rehearsals in the hope that on the actual day itself, everything will _____.
15. You don't have to be afraid of Mrs Jones as she is actually a benign old lady at heart - _____.

Challenge 22

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *feel it in my bones*
2. *chalk and cheese*
3. *leave you in the lurch*
4. *moment of truth*
5. *many moons ago*
6. *kept our noses to the grindstone*
7. *have a bash*
8. *bite the bullet*
9. *by a short head*
10. *treading on eggshells*
11. *in a flap*
12. *paddle your own canoe*
13. *read between the lines*
14. *a brainwave*
15. *killing two birds with one stone*

1. Why don't we _____ at ice-skating this afternoon since we have not tried this before?
2. Let's take a vacation in London. We can visit our daughter there as well. It'll be _____.
3. Even though I have no concrete evidence, I _____ that Mrs Brown is not the real culprit.
4. Veron had _____ in the middle of the night and wrote his new song in three hours.
5. The management advised the workers to _____ and accept a pay cut for the year.
6. You cannot _____ here. All decisions have to be approved by the management.
7. Although we are twin sisters, our characters are like _____ as we are vastly different from each other.
8. My mother won _____ in the baking competition; she defeated her next door neighbour who is a baker. What a surprise!
9. Our director is in a foul mood, so we have been _____ the whole day trying not to incur his wrath.
10. Even before my presentation, I was _____ and forgetting all my speech in my perturbation.
11. Be sure to _____ before you sign the contract, for there may be hidden clauses in the agreement.
12. Don't worry, I won't _____. I will help you find lodging, work and the means to support yourself.
13. "This is the _____! The results will be out any minute," the emcee said in his effort to inject culmination at that moment.
14. My first kiss was _____ when I was just a teenager. I can barely remember what it felt like then.
15. When we took over the project, we _____ and made the office our home.

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Challenge 23

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. placed her on a pedestal
2. gnashing your teeth
3. clip wings
4. hold my peace
5. a bed of roses
6. giving them the willies
7. at her wits' end
8. tagging along
9. ready to roll
10. by the scruff of the neck
11. keep your wits with you
12. take the shine off you
13. a worm will turn
14. a sign of the times
15. pull up your socks

1. During their courtship days, he _____ and professing that she was the perfect girl for him.
2. Everybody is looking forward to eight o'clock tonight when the party will be _____.
3. The attacking midfielder has taken the match _____ by scoring two goals himself and creating another two for his team-mates, leading his club to a convincing victory.
4. It may _____ if you wear this plain gown on your wedding day.
5. Now we can even enjoy television programmes on the bus. It is certainly _____.
6. There is no point in _____ now. You should have studied harder for your examinations.
7. Nicholas always bullies that little girl, but he never expects that even _____ and that he would eventually be reported to the principal.
8. It is not easy to answer ten questions in eighty seconds. You have to _____.
9. The manager feels that Elaine has been promoted too quickly and decides to _____ before she gets too cocky.
10. You shouldn't tell the children that this house is haunted. You are _____.
11. We can never get away from my little brother - No matter where we go, he insists on _____ with us.
12. You have slackened this semester. You ought to _____ and strive harder.
13. I had doubts about the feasibility of the proposal, but instead of arguing against it, I decided to _____ at the meeting.
14. Life is not _____. You win some and you lose some.
15. Being a new mother, Joanne is _____ whenever her baby cries.

Challenge 24

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. laugh my socks off
2. in the red
3. bursting at the seams
4. lie through her teeth
5. throwback to the 50s
6. pave the way
7. give it a whirl
8. chasing rainbows
9. in the grand scheme of things
10. snap out of it
11. tickled pink
12. marking time
13. putting her on a spot
14. makes a song and dance
15. get your skates

1. Andy has no idea how to swim but decides to _____ and brave the waters in an effort to learn the sport.
2. Simon is such a humorous guy. He always make me _____.
3. She always say that she wants to find a rich, caring and handsome husband, but I think she is just _____.
4. After being sacked by his company, Alex has been _____ for a while, chalking up debts with several banks.
5. _____, my job loss is just a small obstacle in my life and I can pick up sooner than you can imagine.
6. The cinema is always _____ during weekends and it is difficult to ge tickets.
7. You will have to _____ if you want to join us because we are already late.
8. This is just one of many setbacks in life. So _____ and stop mourning by doing something constructive!
9. She just contributes to one idea, yet she _____ about how much contribution she has made to the project.
10. You are _____ by asking her to help us out since she has already left the company.
11. It is amazing how she can _____ and pretend not to know me.
12. William was _____ when I told him he had won the lottery. He did not believe my words and proceeded to throw away his lottery ticket.
13. That nostalgic movie, a _____, is one of the most popular screening among the old folks.
14. After losing my job, I seem to be just _____ and doing nothing throughout the day.
15. Establishing friendly bilateral ties between two countries will _____ for talks in the future.

Challenge 25

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. living in a fool's paradise
2. a king's ransom
3. stands to reason
4. a dead ringer for
5. painted a rosy picture of
6. has a nose for
7. put paid
8. no free ride
9. puts the screws
10. behind the scenes
11. sow the seeds
12. on the other side of the coin
13. taken root
14. watching paint dry
15. get out of the rat race

1. We always ask her where to buy new clothes because she _____ good bargains.
2. My uncle loves to go fishing, but to me, fishing is like _____.
3. Frieda is still _____, not knowing that her seemingly devoted husband is having an affair with her best friend.
4. She _____ Italy, but after migrating to the country, she realised that life there was difficult and decided to move back to Singapore.
5. The torrential rain _____ to our plans for a picnic. We will have to think of something else to do indoors.
6. Mrs Lee spends _____ every weekend shopping at high-end boutiques.
7. Extremely weary after a decade of working in the corporate world, Karen decides to _____ and migrate to New Zealand to lead a peaceful life.
8. It _____ that you want to become a lawyer after graduating from law school.
9. Clara has been mistaken so many times because she is _____ the pop singer.
10. Don't be tricked into signing up for this free travel package. There is _____ in this world.
11. In the past, hardly anybody would accept cohabitation. Today, this idea has _____ among young adults.
12. The loanshark _____ on that man to return his money or else he will harm his family.
13. There will be a special coverage of the winners _____ after the prize-giving ceremony.
14. I am sending my child for enrichment class. This is to _____ so that he can become a well-developed adult in future.
15. Her new job is very rewarding, but _____, she has no time for her family and friends.

Challenge 26

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. tilting at windmills
2. keep the wolf from the door
3. not out of the woods
4. to mince his words
5. made of sterner stuff
6. you cannot wave a magic wand
7. in the wake of grief
8. hanging by a thread
9. barking up the wrong tree
10. only time will tell
11. put in a good word
12. watching the world go by
13. lick their wounds
14. a sob-story
15. have visions of

1. Her life is now _____ after she suffered a heart attack. She is now kept under observation by the doctors.
2. _____ if he is her true love - the one who will stick by her through the most difficult periods in her life.
3. Neil doesn't know he is _____ even though Cassandra has hinted that she is not interested in him.
4. I _____ setting up a café in France, but I know that this will not be easy.
5. Unable to get over her misery, Helen is still _____ even though her father has passed away two years ago.
6. The old lady asked me to lend her some money, telling me _____ about her purse being stolen and her children needing food.
7. _____ and pretend that nothing has happened. You ought to atone your mistakes.
8. She keeps accusing me of destroying her marriage, but in my opinion, she is just _____.
9. "I'll _____ for you at the meeting, but I'm not promising anything," said Matthew.
10. During her leisure time, Alice enjoys sipping a cup of coffee at the café and _____.
11. The team has gone off to _____ after their defeat in the match.
12. The young writer does extra freelance work just to _____, so that he can pay the landlord every month.
13. Although she has paid part of her credit card bills, she is still _____.
14. You will know if Benjamin has any grievance. He is not a man _____.
15. Although she looks like a vulnerable girl, she is actually _____ and will not give up easily.

Challenge 27

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. cross the hurdle
2. the golden handshake
3. poured out his heart to me
4. get a grip on yourself
5. hand in glove
6. wore his heart on his sleeve
7. rest on our laurels
8. living a lie
9. keep her at arm's length
10. a dose of his own medicine
11. leaps and bounds
12. getting on like a house on fire
13. a weight off my mind
14. a meal ticket
15. has her head in the clouds

1. We cannot afford to _____ just because we have won the deal. We must continue to work hard and improve ourselves.
2. To get into the law school, you have to _____ of passing the entrance examination first.
3. Mr Tan was tired of _____ and finally confessed to his wife that he was having an extra-marital affair.
4. I didn't want to be friends with her at first, but it was difficult to _____ when she was so friendly.
5. Veronica's health has improved by _____ after the operation.
6. After a couple of drinks, Sara _____ that I am the one she loves.
7. Madeline _____; she is always dreaming of becoming an air-stewardess and does not realise that she is already in her late forties and is therefore, unable to meet the criteria.
8. Mr Lee was glad to be given _____ as he would have money to fulfill his dream of setting up his own business.
9. Please _____. Don't let yourself be defeated so easily.
10. The marketing and sales teams have to work _____ to bring in the profits for our company.
11. Miller really _____ when he professed his love for Mandy in front of everybody.
12. We didn't like each other at first, but now we are _____ and do everything together.
13. That poor woman married a rich businessman just to get _____ and to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle.
14. Give the boastful David _____. Make him swim ten laps and see if he can take it.
15. It is certainly _____ to learn that my son has passed his examinations and subsequently admitted to the university.

Challenge 28

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. watching us like a hawk
2. my heart was in my mouth
3. earning my keep
4. pinched pennies
5. be out of your mind
6. all hands on deck
7. bury the hatchet
8. wash my hands off
9. stick their necks out
10. at a snail's pace
11. grabbed the headlines
12. he is the piper who calls the tune
13. my lips are sealed
14. fits her like a glove
15. worships the ground he walks on

1. The incorrigible shopaholic convinces herself to buy the dress because it _____.
2. Fiona is so infatuated with Billy that she _____ and does whatever he says without question, to the irritation of her mother.
3. "We won't be engaging any part-timers this time, so it'll be _____ on our side," said the manager.
4. Now that I have decided to resign, I can finally _____ this difficult project and hand it to somebody else.
5. Despite all our past grievances, we have decided to _____ and resolve our differences.
6. The invigilator will be _____. We will not be able to cheat during the examinations.
7. A series of bombings by terrorists have _____ this week. Any news of violence in this region is of concern to the world.
8. _____ the first time I sat on the roller coaster, but it was a memorable experience.
9. My parents could not afford to send me to school, so I started _____ at a very young age.
10. "Don't worry, I won't tell anyone about this. You can rest assured that _____," promised Veronica.
11. You must _____ to put all your money on one stock. You should increase your chances of winning by investing in a few other stocks.
12. Nobody dares to _____ to comment about the poor management policies in this company.
13. "Can you hurry up and stop doing things _____?" yelled the impatient mother.
14. When I was a freelancer, I lead an impecunious existence and _____ to make sure I could pay the rent.
15. Since _____, we will have to let him decide whether to stay put or to move our office to another location.

Challenge 29

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *chews the cud*
2. *carry the can*
3. *the coast is clear*
4. *take up the cudgels*
5. *in broad daylight*
6. *doom and gloom*
7. *a bolt from the blue*
8. *feasting their eyes*
9. *as slippery as an eel*
10. *cuts corners*
11. *on sufferance*
12. *like a cat on hot bricks*
13. *on the receiving end of*
14. *make no bones*
15. *bet your bottom dollar*

1. You can _____ that Michael will fall asleep in the cinema because he does not like this kind of movie.
2. Make sure you ask him to commit by signing the contract. He is _____.
3. At the parade, everyone was _____ at the colourful costumes on display.
4. The construction firm _____ in this project to save cost, but it never considers the dangers involved by doing so.
5. My manager _____ with me to find out if I was keen for an overseas posting.
6. News that representatives from the headquarters would be visiting us came like _____. We were taken aback by surprise.
7. We _____ that our products are costly, but they are definitely worth the price as they are made from materials of a higher quality.
8. If you commit a mistake, my manager will not _____ for you.
9. Even though you haven't seen your sister for three years, there is no need to act _____.
10. "This gentleman is here _____ and if he does anything wrong, he'll have to leave," the chairman told the guard.
11. The thief waited until _____ before slipping quietly out of the building.
12. Alice decides to _____ on behalf of her mother and writes a letter of complaint to the relevant ministry to protest the decision.
13. I can't believe my ears when I heard that the girl was raped _____.
14. We may have lost this time, but it's not all _____.
15. I am always _____ my mother's nagging when my sister makes her angry.

Challenge 30

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *in a flight of fancy*
2. *move mountains*
3. *stir up a hornet's nest*
4. *sitting on a goldmine*
5. *won't say boo to a goose*
6. *knight in shining armour*
7. *once in a blue moon*
8. *his saving grace*
9. *put off the evil hour*
10. *itchy feet*
11. *a mug's game*
12. *take it as gospel truth*
13. *on the grapevine*
14. *laid to rest*
15. *in cahoots*

1. We heard it _____ that you are hiring extra staff, so we decided to try our luck.
2. Once you can secure that business contract, you'll be _____ for the next five years.
3. Not everything published in the tabloids are true. You shouldn't _____ what the reporters had written.
4. Larry is stingy and lazy, but his filial piety is _____ and it is a truly admirable trait among the young.
5. When she was a child, she _____. Everyone thought she was extremely introverted.
6. Queuing up for hours to get free toys was _____ to me. I will never do such a silly thing again.
7. Lindsay knew she would have to break the bad news to her parents, but she decided to _____ by writing to her uncle first.
8. Eunice bought more than a dozen dresses from the boutique _____, but she regretted her decision after that.
9. After staying in the same job for five years, I got _____ and decided to switch jobs.
10. Joan is still waiting for her _____ and will not marry until she finds her ideal partner in life.
11. The matter was _____ after both parties apologised to each other and decided to bury the hatchet.
12. Mr Cheong's firm was given many government contracts because he was _____ with someone in the Ministry.
13. My relatives from Malaysia only visit us _____ during festive occasions.
14. The desperate Mrs Lee is prepared to _____ to find her missing daughter.
15. Don't try to _____ by saying the wrong words to her, especially not when she is attempting to forget the past.

Challenge 31

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

- *1. keep an eagle eye*
- *2. falling over himself*
- *3. a force to be reckoned with*
- *4. into the right gear*
- *5. wears many hats*
- *6. take it at face value*
- *7. her eyes glued to*
- *8. light on her feet*
- *9. went one better*
- *10. have a fit*
- *11. in the safe hands of*
- *12. working her fingers to the bone*
- *13. caught me off guard*
- *14. had a hand in it*
- *15. the bum's rush*

1. Mrs Lee is a capable woman who _____. She is the chairwoman for several committees and is also the headmistress of the local high school.

2. You have to _____ on these children. They may fall off the pool.

3. Nancy has been sitting on the sofa with _____ the TV screen the whole day.

4. Don't _____ when Jennifer says she is fine. She is actually feeling miserable but refuses to admit it.

5. The eager salesman was _____, in his attempt to convince people to buy his pots.

6. Lynn has the potential to become a dancer. She is so graceful and _____.

7. Mrs Ong has been _____ trying to support her children through their education.

8. My father is going to _____ if he discovers that you have broken his antique vase.

9. When they found out that Robert was a member of a terrorist organisation, his employers gave him _____.

10. Don't underestimate that company. They may be relatively unknown but they are _____.

11. "These gruelling rehearsals will help you to get _____ before the actual competition starts," my instructor said.

12. I thought I had done a good job in decorating the place, but she _____ and engaged a rock band.

13. The interviewer _____ by asking me personal questions which were unrelated to my job.

14. "You shouldn't have to bear all the responsibility in this matter. We all _____," he told his colleague.

15. "Don't worry, you are _____ the most capable doctor in this hospital now," the nurse consoled the patient.

Challenge 32

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

- *1. hoping against hope*
- *2. step out of line*
- *3. tying yourself in knots*
- *4. playing possum*
- *5. pull rank on*
- *6. recipe for success*
- *7. take any port in a storm*
- *8. method in her madness*
- *9. your heart isn't in it*
- *10. make light of it*
- *11. sticking point*
- *12. take matters into her own hands*
- *13. the bright lights*
- *14. at any price*
- *15. poetic justice*

1. You won't be able to perform well in this job if _____ and is constantly thinking of greener pastures elsewhere.

2. She was _____ that they'll find her husband alive, but after several days had passed, she knew it was almost impossible.

3. That's _____! The unfilial son finally gets kicked out of the house!

4. It is no point trying to explain the incident to the media. You'll just be _____.

5. When the police could not locate the kidnapper, she decided to _____ and meet the dangerous man alone.

6. This issue concerns the livelihood of millions of people. How could you _____ and not treat it seriously?

7. At the age of nineteen, Betty decides to leave Texas and head for _____ of Hollywood.

8. The discipline mistress will always be there to punish us if we _____ and break the school rules.

9. She is trying to make him jealous, that's all. There's _____.

10. He is actually the last person I'll approach, but since he can help me, I'll just _____.

11. The _____ in this business deal is the price. Once we settle that, we can sign the contract.

12. Sunny managed to escape death by _____ until the murderer left, otherwise he would have been killed.

13. She was determined to redeem the gold bangle _____ as it was a gift of sentimental value to her.

14. It was wrong of him to _____ Ray and make him do all the dirty work; we should split the work up instead.

15. To me, the _____ is hard work and a positive attitude to life.

Challenge 33

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. just as well that
2. on the make
3. the grand old man of
4. make or break
5. get the measure of
6. a mine of information
7. close to the mark
8. put the skids under him
9. irons in the fire
10. straining at the leash
11. legged it
12. taking life in your own hands
13. stole the show
14. the last straw
15. girdling up their loins

1. Don't worry if you miss the job offer. There are many _____ for you.

2. It's _____ Stella is retrenched so that she can have time to look after her young children.

3. After months of rigorous training, we are all ready and _____ to take on our opponents in the match.

4. The pickpocket grabbed his wallet and _____ before anyone noticed.

5. If you drive after drinking, you will be _____ and risking an accident.

6. The bride was very pretty, but the bridegroom's sister _____ by appearing in an enormous scarlet hat covered in ostrich feathers.

7. The students are _____ for the inter-school debate, preparing materials and doing research to support their stand.

8. That quarrel was _____ for her. She decides to go ahead with a divorce.

9. The corporate world is full of ambitious people who are _____ and wish to make a name for themselves in the industry.

10. You are _____ when you guess that I'm a florist. I'm actually a horticulturist.

11. "Tell him he's sacked unless he finishes the project by Friday - that'll _____," my boss said.

12. Having written numerous bestselling books, Nick Lachey is widely accepted as _____ detective stories.

13. These negotiations are crucial to the two countries. They can either _____ both parties.

14. It has taken Simon almost a year to _____ his roommate and be accustomed to the latter's habits.

15. Sheila is a very experienced and knowledgeable worker. You can ask her anything as she is _____.

Challenge 34

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. broadened my horizons
2. long, hard look
3. run a mile
4. touch-and-go
5. slipped my mind
6. knows it backwards
7. look to your laurels
8. by all means
9. get the munchies
10. can't hear myself think
11. change of heart
12. doesn't care a hoot
13. real McCoy
14. brought light to
15. like a lamb going to the slaughter

1. After signing up for swimming lessons, she has a _____ and decides to take up martial arts instead.

2. Can you lower the volume? I am trying to complete this proposal and I _____ .

3. He _____ about fame or fortune. He just wants to lead a simple life in the peace and quiet of countryside.

4. Working with other volunteers in less developed countries has certainly _____.

5. Little John has learnt his multiplication tables so well that he _____.

6. Don't marry that unappealing old man just because he is rich. It'll be _____ for you.

7. You must _____ for William. He has been practising hard lately and may take over you.

8. The letter _____ the cause of his death. He didn't commit suicide but was murdered by a serial killer.

9. The new director takes a _____ at the organisational structure of the firm and decides to make some radical changes.

10. This watch is not a fake. It is the _____ and costs several thousand dollars.

11. If you think he will be interested in the show, _____ ask him along.

12. George is a very lazy boy and would _____ if I ask him to help out with the cleaning, so there is no point in seeking his assistance.

13. It was _____ whether Madam Soh would survive in the heart operation.

14. I wanted to inform you that your mother will be coming, but it just _____.

15. She brought peanuts into the cinema, so that they would _____ while enjoying the movie.

Challenge 35

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *pull a fast one on*
2. *partners in crime*
3. *keep rubbing your nose in it*
4. *thumbing his nose*
5. *music to my ears*
6. *appealing to his better nature*
7. *slipped through the net*
8. *nothing of having*
9. *cast a pall over*
10. *a paper tiger*
11. *on the warpath*
12. *seek new pastures*
13. *cuts you to the quick*
14. *wool-gathering*
15. *a piece of cake*

1. When the emcee announced that I was the winner, it was like _____.
2. The old lady asked the man to contribute to charity by _____; he donated three thousand dollars as a result.
3. People who have signed up via email have _____ because our system has broken down.
4. "The boss is _____ this morning, so be careful!" my colleague warned us.
5. He doesn't seem to respect the manager at all, _____ into everything.
6. In the past, everyone would think _____ no air-conditioning in our lives, but now many people cannot do without it.
7. Even though she failed to make it to the last round, you don't have to _____.
8. The magician tried to _____ the audience, but some of them were not to be taken in so easily.
9. The sudden death of their principal has _____ the students. They were shocked and saddened beyond words.
10. Mr Tan is just _____ who doesn't really have much authority in the company. He is just a manager in name.
11. John and Peter have been _____, disturbing neighbours with their crazy antics.
12. With your talent, it is not surprising that you should _____ in that multi-national corporation.
13. "I'm tired of your constant _____, you should concentrate on your work now," my mother scolded my brother.
14. Having done this job for the past two years, this will be just _____ to me.
15. Don't be offended when he _____. He doesn't give much thought to what he says is ignorant of the negative impact of his words.

Challenge 36

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. *stars in her eyes*
2. *lives to tell her tale*
3. *there's no telling*
4. *sit pretty*
5. *a sight for sore eyes*
6. *by the skin of his teeth*
7. *tell it as it is*
8. *your tail between your legs*
9. *clutching at straws*
10. *settle an old score*
11. *Give it a rest*
12. *when the spirit moves me*
13. *a security blanket*
14. *up to speed*
15. *fly by the seat of our pants*

1. You shouldn't keep thinking about this problem. _____ now and you may be able to find a solution later.
2. A vindictive person by nature, Michael has returned after five years to _____ with Teddy.
3. We always _____ when we have no time to prepare for our presentations; we just improvise on the spot.
4. Stationing guards at the school will add _____ for parents who are worried about their children's safety.
5. The greenery in the forest was _____; it was a soothing relief to those who had been staring at computer screens for hours.
6. Now that he has made it rich by winning the lottery, he can _____ for a while before deciding whether he wants to work ever again.
7. He survived _____. If we had rescued him any later, he would have been dead.
8. I will only help you with this _____; I have no motivation to do it now.
9. Once the factory is re-opened, we will bring our production _____.
10. With _____, she decides to go to Hollywood to become a superstar.
11. She seems to be _____ when she agrees to marry that man to repay her debts.
12. Don't have _____ just because you have failed this time; you should keep trying until you succeed.
13. My grandma _____ about her harsh life as a child during the Japanese occupation.
14. You should be honest and _____ instead of trying to hide the truth from us.
15. _____ when Michael will leave his job. It may be this week or next year.

Challenge 37

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. takes two to tango
2. Dutch courage
3. up the creek without a paddle
4. the creature comforts of
5. flies the coop
6. the tricks of the trade
7. came clean
8. go cold turkey
9. stopped dead in his tracks
10. keep your trap shut
11. turned up for the books
12. beats the daylights out of
13. sticks in my throat
14. sink to the depths of
15. goes to a lot of trouble

1. The busy Mr Lim _____ just to spend a romantic dinner with his wife.
2. Remember to _____ about Tracy when you meet Bobby as he is at loggerheads with her now.
3. Ronald _____ when he came across a corpse in the forest. He reported to the police immediately.
4. Alice did not have any formal training in this field. She picked up _____ by observing her seniors at work.
5. You can't blame him totally for the failed marriage. It _____. His wife is at fault too.
6. It is difficult to _____ and kick your smoking habit at once. You have to do it slowly.
7. Jason was on time for once. He had _____, much to the disbelief of his classmates.
8. That presidential candidate _____ during the election and admitted that he had smoked marijuana in the past.
9. Jimmy _____ to Australia when he learns that he has been awarded with the scholarship.
10. Give me a can of beer, I need some _____ before I go on stage tonight.
11. Wendy is now _____ after her boyfriend absconded with all her savings and left her with huge debts to settle.
12. June won't be able to take the life in Cambodia. She is so used to _____ her home.
13. Ivan is so angry with the man who harassed Suzanne that he _____ him.
14. Nobody would have believed that the son of the richest man in the country would _____ stealing. What a surprise!
15. I don't usually criticize other people's behaviour but the way Samantha carries on really _____.

Challenge 38

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. familiarity breeds contempt
2. hue and cry
3. buy a pig in a poke
4. practise what you preach
5. out on your ear
6. your guess is as good as mine
7. watching me like a hawk
8. get to the heart of
9. shoots me a dirty look
10. making the grade
11. as mad as hatters
12. eyes popped out
13. wide off the mark
14. keeping our eyes peeled
15. a mind of her own

1. You'll be _____ if you reveal confidential information about the company to anyone.
2. We have been _____ for the ideal holiday destination, browsing through tour packages and itineraries from different travel agencies.
3. Steven's _____ when he saw how gorgeous Sally looked that evening.
4. The director hardly speaks to us because she believes that _____, and so she thinks that she ought to exercise her authoritarian power over us at all times.
5. She is a talented tennis player who has a good chance of _____ and winning the championship.
6. Who do you think will win this time round? It is difficult to predict, _____.
7. The teenagers were _____ after taking those drugs and started behaving in an aberrant manner.
8. I won't be able to leave the house tonight. My father is _____.
9. You need to _____ the problem instead of just skirting around it, otherwise you will always be faced with this headache.
10. There was so much _____ when people learnt that the corrupt minister had been deceiving them for a very long time.
11. My sister _____ when Jovan asks me out for a dance. It seems as if she holds a torch for him too.
12. This market survey does not paint an accurate picture of consumers' shopping habits. In fact, it is _____.
13. You can give her advice, but she has _____ and can decide for herself.
14. I'll have to test-drive the car first. I don't want to _____ and regret making the purchase later.
15. There is no point in telling her not to be late for meetings. You have to _____ yourself.

Challenge 39

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. wreathed in smiles
2. twiddling your thumbs
3. worth her weight in gold
4. outstayed our welcome
5. in stitches
6. stem the tide of complaints
7. take things in my stride
8. spoken for
9. walks his talk
10. through thick and thin
11. sold me down the river
12. easier said than done
13. chasing my own tail
14. there is no time to lose
15. wheel and deal

1. My partner has _____, making off with all the capital for our business.
2. Teach him to respect elders! That's _____ for this impertinent child has been spoiled by his doting parents..
3. Michelle was _____ when Amos proposed to her, for she had been waiting for that golden moment for years.
4. To Joseph, the fact that Gisele is already _____ doesn't deter him from pursuing her.
5. The clown's comical antics kept us _____ and we were in a hilarious mood throughout the day.
6. Even though things may not go my way, I am one who can _____ and persevere till the end.
7. I used to work too hard, but then I realised I had been _____ and that I could find fulfilment in other aspects of my life too.
8. Our manager is one who _____. He supports all our company events with enthusiasm.
9. Throughout the twenty years in marriage, the couple has been supporting each other _____.
10. You can't just sit around _____ and expect a job offer to land on you. You should at least attend the career fairs.
11. Sales of this product have improved since tighter quality controls have been introduced to _____ from consumers.
12. _____. We have to get her out of the fire at once or her life will be endangered.
13. Having assisted me for so many years, my secretary is _____. I will never let her resign if I can help it.
14. We decided to leave the lodging place before we _____ and risked getting chased out by the owners.
15. The underworld has business dealings everywhere, but they got what they have through _____.

Challenge 40

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. see the back of
2. bane of my existence
3. pick up the ball and run with it
4. at the back of my mind
5. it's in the bag
6. scrape the bottom of the barrel
7. babe in the woods
8. left their mark
9. a new lease of life
10. over the hill
11. breaks her back
12. looking for a needle in a haystack
13. bringing home the bacon
14. heated up
15. take cover

1. The illegal immigrant decides to _____ before the police arrives, so that they will not be able to deport him back to where he came from.
2. Trying to find that sheet of paper on his messy table is like _____.
3. Years of poverty have _____ on the family, for all of them had malnourished bodies and wore threadbare clothings.
4. My new job has provided me _____, giving me the satisfaction I have always yearned for.
5. Fandi can no longer be a member of the national soccer team now as he is _____.
6. You don't have to get _____ over this small affair. Instead, you should solve it in an amicable manner.
7. When the boy first came to the city, he was like a _____ and believing whatever anyone tells him.
8. After watching the show, images of the violent crime scenes kept replaying _____.
9. After the death of her husband, the poor widow _____ by taking on three jobs to support her children and her ailing mother.
10. The emcee has not announced the winner yet, but Cindy thinks _____.
11. A chauvinistic man who has strict beliefs about the traditional roles in the family, Jeremy is upset now that it is his wife who is _____.
12. We were glad to _____ Auntie Soh because she made a nuisance of herself while she was staying with us.
13. We have come up with new strategies to break into the market. Now, it's time to _____.
14. My irritating colleagues are the _____ in the office. I wish they would get off my back one day.
15. After our best player was sent off, we had no choice but to _____ and used our substitute instead.

Challenge 41

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. green fingers
2. lay the ghost of
3. recharged your batteries
4. haven't got a bean
5. been there, done that
6. fallen under the spell of
7. seeing eye to eye
8. down and out
9. rough edges
10. like a dose of salts
11. vested interest
12. hitting him below the belt
13. long in the teeth
14. talking nineteen to the dozen
15. go to the ends of the earth

1. Darren seems to have _____ Alice, for he is always catering to her whims and fancies.
2. Being an efficient worker, she did not waste any time and went through the errands _____.
3. Having lost his job and wife, he is now _____ and really needs financial and moral support from us.
4. They don't know each other that well, but once the topic of shopping was brought up, they were _____.
5. Even though your presentation has _____, I'm sure you'll do better with practice.
6. Ever since I moved in with my mother-in-law, we have not been _____ and would bicker every other day.
7. During his courtship days, he professed his love for Jane by claiming that he would _____ for her.
8. As the major shareholder of an oil production conglomerate, Mr Brookson has a _____ in the current situation in the Middle East.
9. My neighbour has got _____. Look at the beautiful plants she has grown in her nursery.
10. At the age of thirty-five, she is too _____ to be a model.
11. Jane has been trying hard to _____ her divorce, but that has not been an easy thing to do.
12. I'm sure that after a long holiday, you'll have _____ and will be ready to plunge into full throttle of work again.
13. After spending all my money on that dress, I _____ and have to save up all over again.
14. After experiencing bungee jumping in New Zealand, I no longer want to do it again. After all, I've _____.
15. Saying that Vincent was responsible for his girlfriend's death is _____, for he is in no way liable for the tragedy.

Challenge 42

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. a ghost of a chance of
2. can't for the life of me
3. started the ball rolling
4. took the bull by the horns
5. a fate worse than death
6. butter won't melt in his mouth
7. with bated breath
8. with his eyes open
9. to soften the blow
10. rock the boat
11. whipping boy
12. living on the breadline
13. took my breath away
14. the bare bones of
15. thrilled to bits

1. A secret admirer of Ronaldo, she was _____ when he asked her out for a date.
2. The house is not quite furnished. It only contains _____ a table and a bed.
3. Impressed by its architecture and grandeur, the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco simply _____.
4. Anxious to know the outcome of the competition, we waited _____ for the results to be announced.
5. Once the new manager arrived, he _____ and changed the style of management of the company.
6. He is just pretending that _____. I'm sure he visits the bar as he is a man who succumbs easily to worldly temptations.
7. Mr Lee went into the corporate world _____, knowing that he would have to handle office politics.
8. In my sister's opinion, to marry a person you do not love will be like having _____.
9. Susan doesn't think she has _____ winning this race. She just joined for the experience.
10. I _____ imagine myself living in Afghanistan where all material comforts are not within reach.
11. _____, I told the little girl that her mother had gone to a faraway place, instead of telling her the truth that her mother had died.
12. Our team leader _____ by introducing himself to the rest of the new members.
13. It is not advisable to _____ just when we have got used to this new system.
14. Shawn is always the _____ whenever something goes wrong and is often blamed for acts he did not commit.
15. After years of _____, Kendrick finally manages to get a respectable job that pays handsomely, allowing him to live a more comfortable life.

Challenge 43

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. fair and square
2. throwing caution to the winds
3. got the wrong end of the stick
4. a drop in the ocean
5. took to it like a duck to water
6. dishing the dirt
7. the carte blanche
8. wet behind the ears
9. gets a buzz from
10. cheesed off
11. shoot the breeze
12. to spare her the blushes
13. hot under the collar
14. rattle his cage
15. every cloud has a silver lining

1. _____, I will not reveal that she is carrying a torch for Jordan.
2. The conducive resort environment allows us to _____ and just relax.
3. Look at the fuming boy. What have you done to _____ and cause him to be so upset?
4. Joan _____ baking cakes and treating her friends and neighbours with them.
5. Having full confidence in me, my manager gives me _____ to handle this project.
6. _____, I decide to travel alone to Europe and experience new encounters on my own.
7. Derrick was _____ when I turned up late for his show as he considered it a mark of disrespect.
8. Although you may be retrenched now, but _____, you can now have time to indulge in your hobbies.
9. Mr Wong was _____ when we told him that he had been dismissed from the company. He did not know how to face his wife and children.
10. The two gentlemen decide to compete _____ for the love of Angie; no one is supposed to resort to violence.
11. When she first started out in the company as a young girl, she was _____.
12. We have only amassed a hundred dollars now, but this is _____ because we need more than a thousand dollars in order to embark on this project.
13. You have _____ when you suspect that the two of them are in courtship. In fact, they are merely friends.
14. Although Beatrice has never tried skating, she _____ and was soon gliding round the rink without any help from the instructors.
15. This tabloid has made good money by _____ on famous people and writing about their private lives.

Challenge 44

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. find his feet
2. the going gets tough
3. tearing his hair out
4. flew off the handle
5. sit on the fence
6. staring her straight in the face
7. put the fear of God
8. covers a lot of ground
9. take my hat off
10. have what it takes
11. up for grabs
12. playing with fire
13. has feet of clay
14. it came to the crunch
15. come under fire

1. When _____, the indecisive William could not decide whether he loved Jill or Jean more.
2. She was frustrated when she couldn't find the answer, not knowing that it was _____.
3. Nobody is allowed to _____. Either you vote for or against the policy.
4. An adaptable worker, Terence only takes two months to _____ in his new job.
5. You have to understand that Eddie _____ and that there is no such thing as a perfect husband in the world.
6. Edmund used to be a good driver, but one bad accident had _____ in him.
7. The government's decision to raise taxes has _____ from the people who did not want to pay more.
8. After consulting her lawyer, Annie decided to drop the case, realising that pursuing it any further would be akin to _____.
9. When _____, she always seeks solace with her parents, who can be counted on to provide her with comfort and encouragement.
10. Tickets to the movie are _____ to anyone who can say the correct password during the telephone contest.
11. This book is very comprehensive and _____. You'll find it useful in your research.
12. Mr Toh has been _____, trying to make things work out between his wife and his mother.
13. My mother _____ even before I had a chance to explain why I was late returning home.
14. I _____ to you for being able to complete this insurmountable job before the deadline. You are simply amazing!
15. If you think you _____, go ahead and sign up for the competition.

Challenge 45

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. seventh heaven
2. riding high on
3. in the right place at the right time
4. in his heart of hearts
5. always up with the lark
6. put that in your pipe and smoke it
7. pulling my leg
8. put our heads together
9. Rome wasn't built in a day
10. place in the sun
11. a house of cards
12. put one across on
13. the bird has flown
14. close to his heart
15. better than a kick in the teeth

1. Dickson encourages Alice to further her career in America, but _____, he is hoping that she will stay.

2. Geddis was in _____ after Sophia whom he has courted for many years, finally accepted his marriage proposal.

3. Without proper planning and market research on our part, the proposal will just collapse like _____.

4. Winning a mere fifty dollars is _____; at least it means some spare cash to use.

5. Being a health conscious freak, Hugh is _____ for a morning jog before he sets off for work.

6. "It takes time to get to know your colleagues well for _____," said the boss to his new staff.

7. The writer is _____ the success of her new novel. Her book is now the bestseller in town.

8. It is by a stroke of luck that Jonathan is _____ and happens to win the grand prize.

9. Rence finds a _____ doing volunteer work after she quitted from her corporate job; she has since achieved a sense of fulfilment.

10. There is no point in grumbling about the hike in bus fares. It will serve no purpose, so _____.

11. "Stop _____ and tell me the truth, or I will be angry," Cindy told her boyfriend.

12. Let's _____ and think of a way to try to solve the problem instead of pointing fingers at one another.

13. Any news on TV about George's hometown is still _____ even though he has migrated to another country several years ago.

14. Ezann thought he would _____ his friends and relatives by pretending he was going to get married.

15. By the time the police reached the airport, _____.

Challenge 46

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. has the cat got your tongue
2. sugar the pill
3. when the cat's away, the mice will play
4. the boot is on the other foot
5. rest my case
6. like the cat that got the canary
7. wasn't a dry eye in the house
8. my heart skipped a beat
9. running hell for leather
10. get her foot in the door
11. playing cat and mouse
12. one foot in the grave
13. set his eyes on
14. the emperor's new clothes
15. square the circle

1. It is impossible to solve this irrevocable problem, so stop wasting effort to _____.

2. Nobody likes the idea of a retreat suggested by the boss, but everyone agrees to it. It's just _____.

3. Whenever we went to the dentist as children, my parents used to _____ by taking us to the zoo afterwards.

4. We had a less stressful time when our boss was away in China for a month - _____.

5. I _____. I'm tired of explaining myself to you, for you never seem to see my point of view.

6. Why aren't you talking to me? _____ or have I stepped on your toes unknowingly?

7. We were wondering why he was behaving _____, grinning to himself the whole day.

8. They used to lose matches, but after they appointed a new leader, _____and they have been winning ever since.

9. Foster did not mind the meagre pay as she wanted to _____ and master professional hair-styling skills.

10. The thieves were _____ with the police, luring them to all the wrong places.

11. At the funeral of the benevolent boss, there _____ among the employees.

12. _____ when Sean declared his love for me on our second date. It was the most romantic moment of my life.

13. The participants were _____, trying to beat one another in the race.

14. Wilson has _____ the house the moment he saw it and decides to buy it on the spot.

15. Realising that he already has _____, the Mr Wong, who is suffering from a heart ailment, instructs his lawyer to draft a will.

Challenge 47

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. thrown out of the kilter
2. get her hooks into you
3. leave a lot to be desired
4. a charmed life
5. more power to your elbow
6. with bated breath
7. playing hard to get
8. know him inside out
9. selling like hotcakes
10. hit you where it hurts most
11. young at heart
12. go places
13. stuck in a rut
14. a head like a sieve
15. licence to print money

1. The elderly folks thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing into the night. They may be old but are ______.
2. "I'm going to cancel your credit card. This will ______," Mr Lee declared to his son.
3. Once that woman ______, you'll never be able to escape from her clutches.
4. The book which has been ______ is now the bestseller of the month, due to the raving reviews it has received in the papers.
5. "I think I'd better write the date of the next meeting in my diary. I've got ______," my colleague said.
6. Our plan to travel to Europe was ______ during the recession when our budget was reduced by half.
7. She seems to ______. She can even predict what he is going to say.
8. Your work capabilities ______! You had better work harder and improve your skills.
9. Smuggling drugs is ______, but you will be risking your life for it.
10. Mike seems to have ______, having survived a fall from the mountains and a car crash.
11. We believe that our café will ______ if we can manage it well.
12. Karen is interested in him, but she is just ______ by giving him the occasional cold shoulder.
13. It is admirable of you to give up your job to become a volunteer. ______ and I hope you will find the sense of fulfilment in volunteerism.
14. The crowd watched ______ as the fireman brought the little girl down the ladder.
15. Having worked at the same post over the past ten years, Mr Tan is ______ and not ever been promoted.

Challenge 48

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. took a swipe
2. draw the short straw
3. not by any stretch of the imagination
4. a double take
5. makes up for lost time
6. caught with his fingers in the till
7. for old times' sake
8. a sweet tooth
9. at each other's throat
10. in the hot seat
11. living on borrowed time
12. swings and roundabouts
13. them and us
14. can't think straight
15. on second thoughts

1. It was unlucky of me to ______ to represent my class for the play as I suffered from stage fright.
2. The dull woman was ______ an extrovert who liked throwing parties; rather, she was an introvert who kept to herself all the time.
3. Taking this flight may be faster, but it's far more expensive, so it is ______ depending on how you see it.
4. In his annual address to the nation, the President ______ at his critics by questioning their commitment to fighting terrorism.
5. I walked past the man, but did ______ because he looked exactly like my father.
6. We can never be on very close terms with the management staff. It is like ______.
7. Stephanie ______ with all that noise in the background. She needs to have some peace and quiet to do her research for her term paper.
8. Justin wanted to go for a holiday, but ______, decided against it.
9. The neighbours have been ______ for a long time. They refuse to bury the hatchet.
10. He was ______, but his boss was kind enough not to hand him to the police.
11. William has been ______ since he was diagnosed with cancer and he is taking it one day at a time.
12. In the past, she used to spend all her time at work. Now, she ______ by spending time with her family and friends.
13. ______, Jimmy decides to organise a reunion party and invites all his ex-classmates.
14. The Minister is now ______ as he has to explain to the media and the concerned public about the sudden surge in the crime rate.
15. The little girl has ______ and enjoys all kinds of dessert.

Challenge 49

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. took a turn for the worse
2. hard to swallow
3. won't put it past her
4. wears the trousers
5. up and running
6. came down on me like a ton of bricks
7. take potluck
8. set the scene
9. everything is coming up roses
10. going thin on top
11. fights tooth and nail
12. breeding bad blood
13. It never rains but it pours
14. on the rocks
15. on the flip side of things

1. My mother 13 _____ when she learnt that I had skipped class to go for a movie with my friends.

2. His condition 6 _____ after he suffered from a stroke. He is now semi-paralysed because of his indisposition.

3. Once we install the machines, the production will be _____ and we can meet the deadline for delivery.

4. I find it _____ the sarcastic remarks he made, for he has offended me with his insensitivity.

5. She is feeling miserable because her marriage is _____ and there is no one around to console her.

6. We decided to _____ and bring our specialties to the pool party so that everybody can enjoy the variety of food.

7. We ought to mind our own business to avoid _____ with the opposing team before the match.

8. She is such a nosy parker. I _____ that she was the one who spreaded the rumour.

9. Jane got two job offers yesterday. Sometimes, _____ as she has been trying hard to find a job for the past few months without success.

10. First, she got a good job offer and now a loving boyfriend. _____ for her.

11. The drug addict _____ and falls to his death when the narcotics officer gives chase and forces him to surrender.

12. He looks like a tough, strong-minded man, but actually it's his wife who _____.

13. It seems that Nicolas has deliberately _____ for the confrontation between Martin and his girlfriend.

14. Even though Mr Fong is barely thirty, he looks older than his age because he is _____.

15. In this unscrupulous and challenging corporate world, Keith _____ to earn himself a promotion.

Challenge 50

Select the most suitable answer and write its number in the blank provided

1. with experience on your side
2. carved in stone
3. all the time on my hands
4. my stomach turn
5. what is in store for
6. kicking up a stink
7. vent her spleen
8. teething problems
9. move with the times
10. think twice about
11. a Walter Mitty
12. took a shine to
13. losing his shirt
14. in one fell swoop
15. ran amok

1. The interviewer _____ me at the meeting and I was offered the job immediately.

2. He has stopped investing in shares since _____ two years ago when he was declared a bankrupt.

3. Today's newspapers reported on an unemployed man in New York who _____ and fired on innocent bystanders with a semi-automatic rifle.

4. _____, you will definitely get the job offer based on the impressive resume you have submitted.

5. Cherie decides to write to the forum to _____ about the nasty encounter she had experienced.

6. The housewives have been _____ ever since they found out that they have been cheated of their savings by that man.

7. The unbearable stench coming out from the house next door really makes _____.

8. Rules and regulations in this company have been _____ twenty years ago and they are almost impossible to change.

9. Jane had no idea _____ her and was genuinely astounded when her friends threw her a surprise party.

10. The police was able to catch all the syndicate members _____ during the raid.

11. Our company faced many _____ when we first started out, but we eventually overcame all of them.

12. She didn't _____ quitting her job and following her husband to America.

13. I have _____ now as I have qu my job and have no more work committments.

14. In order to _____, our company has to come up with new products regularly.

15. I had come to the conclusion that Mr Han was _____ whose accounts of his past history were almost entirely imaginary.

Challenge 1

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. The person who actually has something is in the strongest position to keep it, if there is a dispute over ownership. — *Possession is nine points of the Law.*
2. If you are going to be punished severely, it might as well be for a major offence, which will bring you more enjoyment than a minor one. — *One might ________ for a sheep*
3. The acquisition of power has a negative effect on people, causing them to be dishonest or immoral. — *Power ________*
4. Overall, your gains and losses tend to end up being the same and so balance out. — *What you ________, you gain ________*
5. Taking revenge for a wrong which has been done to you is very satisfying. — *________ is sweet*
6. You cannot expect to enjoy the advantages of two opposing courses of action. — *You cannot ________ ways*
7. There is no merit in praising yourself. — *Self-praise is ________*
8. Do not judge a thing by its attractive appearance. — *________ is not gold*
9. This proverb advises us to be grateful for what we have even though it is not as much as what we like. — *________ is better than ________*
10. If you are careful in managing small amounts of money, you don't have to worry about how to manage large amounts. — *Take ________ and the pounds ________*
11. You can't do a job properly without suitable equipment, material or resources. — *You cannot ________ without ________*
12. It is easy to find fault with a person if you want to. — *________ will serve to beat ________*
13. This proverb is used to discourage an inquisitive person from asking questions. — *Ask no ________ and hear ________*
14. If you want to catch a wrongdoer, you should get someone who has some experience of wrongdoing. — *Set a thief to ________*

Challenge 2

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Don't create problems for yourself by doing things the hard way. Find the simplest means instead. — *Cross the ________ where it is ________*
2. It is better to accept something small than to reject it and hope to get more later on. — *A bird in the ________ is worth two ________*
3. The best things take time to find. — *The ________ swim near the ________*
4. Do not give a beautiful or precious thing to a person who is totally unable to appreciate its value. — *Don't cast ________ before a ________*
5. Smart clothing makes a person look more impressive than he really is. — *Fine ________ make fine ________*
6. Money often causes people to commit heinous crimes. — *________ is the root of ________*
7. If we could achieve our aims by merely wishing, life would be very easy. — *If wishes ________, beggars ________*
8. We cease to worry or think about anything that can no longer be seen. — *Out of ________, out of ________*
9. In achieving your aim, make sure you don't do something else that more than cancels out your achievement. — *Don't empty ________ with the ________*
10. When something must be done, people will find ways and means to do it. — *________ is the mother of ________*
11. Even a very simple home is the best place in the world for people who live in it. — *There's no ________*
12. It takes a long time to build up a good reputation, but this reputation is quickly lost by just one crime or bad behaviour. — *A ________ is sooner lost ________*
13. Important tasks can take quite a long time to complete or a lot of hard work. Patience and perseverance are important. — *________ was not built ________*
14. Take advantage of a favourable circumstance or good opportunity. — *________ while the sun ________*

Challenge 3

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. It is a waste of time to try to revive interest in a forgotten subject or to argue about something that has been settled long since.
It is useless to ______ ______

2. We should acknowledge that someone has done well even if we do not usually approve of what the person does.
Give credit where ______

3. We can afford to be cheerful when we have no financial problems.
A heavy ______ *makes a* ______ ______

4. Speak against small offences while committing even greater offences is hypocrisy.
Men ______ *and swallow* ______

5. The belief that everything is better than what it really is.
All his ______ *are* ______

6. Families get broken up because of internal disputes.
A house ______ *cannot stand*

7. Every family has a secret that it does utmost to conceal.
Every ______ *has a skeleton* ______ ______

8. Don't marry until you can well afford to do so.
First ______ *and then* ______

9. People who have faults themselves should not criticize others who have similar faults.
People who ______ *should not* ______

10. The quality of something can be judged only after it has been tested.
The proof ______ *is in the* ______

11. Talking is good, but sometimes keeping quiet is even better.
Speech ______, *silence* ______

12. When the person in authority is away, those under him will take advantage of his absence.
When the ______, *the mice* ______

13. When you wait for something to happen, it seems to take longer to happen if you keep checking.
______ *never boils*

14. Things always seem at their worst just before they begin to improve.
The darkest hour ______ ______

Challenge 4

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. If you are not prepared to take risks, you cannot expect to see results.
Nothing ______, *nothing* ______

2. Always examine your purchases before you pay for it.
Never ______ *in a* ______

3. These are words of encouragement to shy suitors.
Faint ______ *ne'er won* ______

4. You will be punished or rewarded according to whether you have led a virtuous or sinful life.
As you ______, *so shall you* ______

5. You tend to dislike the presence of friends who frequently visit you.
A constant ______ *is never* ______

6. Don't invest all in the same speculation, but spread over so that you won't lose everything if one fails.
Don't put all ______ *in* ______ ______

7. When two people love each other dearly, they often have to overcome difficulties before they can marry.
The ______ *never runs smooth*

8. Two people who work in the same trade rarely agree with each other's opinion.
______ *never agree*

9. If you take revenge on someone who has harmed you, it does not set right the wrong that he did to you.
______ *do not make a* ______

10. Contentment of the mind is the contributing factor to lasting happiness. It is more important than material riches.
A contented mind ______

11. If something has to be done, it is better to do it now rather than put it off till later.
Never put off ______ ______ *be done today*

12. Opportunity comes to everyone at least once and when it comes, we should seize it.
______ *at least once at* ______

13. The person who is paying will decide how the money should be spent.
He who ______ *calls* ______

14. A situation in which two people who are in competition with each other are equally clever or cunning.
______ *cuts* ______

Challenge 5

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Don't offer advice to those who are more experienced than you are.	*Don't teach ____ to suck ____*
2. An old man is likely to treasure his young wife, but a young man may treat his wife poorly.	*Better be an ____ than a ____ slave*
3. You should not give way to misfortune till it actually happens since it may not happen.	*Don't cry before ____*
4. You could miss opportunities by not acting promptly.	*The ____ catches the ____*
5. Whether you have missed your objective by a narrow margin or a wide one, you have still failed.	*____ is as good as a ____*
6. We should not try to bring together things that are irrelevant to each other.	*Don't put ____ into old ____*
7. A person of great importance usually has more to worry about.	*Uneasy ____ that wears the ____*
8. Different people have different tastes. One person may like what another hates.	*____ is another ____ poison*
9. It is better to take precaution against something before it happens than to repair the damage after it has taken place.	*____ is better than ____*
10. Many people are reluctant to believe something unless they can see it for themselves.	*Seeing ____*
11. People newly appointed to posts tend to make big changes. Like new brooms, they do their work well.	*New ____ sweep ____*
12. A person who never stops long in one place or is constantly changing his job, will never make money.	*A rolling ____ gathers ____*
13. When you are in another country or away from home, adapt yourself to your surrounding and the local customs.	*When in ____, do as ____*
14. Be grateful for what we receive, even it is not as much as we had hoped for.	*Half ____ is better than ____*

Challenge 6

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. If too many people try to do the same thing at one time, chaos will reign.	*Too many ____ spoil the ____*
2. As people get older, they grow more set in their ways and do not welcome any innovation.	*You cannot teach ____*
3. Prompt action at an early stage may prevent serious consequences.	*____ saves nine*
4. A person tends to blame another for the faults he himself has.	*____ calling the kettle ____*
5. A child who has never been disciplined will grow up to be a spoilt person.	*Spare the ____ and spoil ____*
6. You are unlikely to achieve anything without trouble or hardship.	*No ____ no ____*
7. A person who talks a lot probably also tells a lot of lies in his conversations.	*A great ____ is also a ____*
8. Too much of something or someone can make us begin to dislike that thing or person.	*Familiarity ____*
9. It is better to have a good reputation than all the riches in the world.	*A good ____ is better than ____*
10. The more people there are to carry out a task, the less each has to do and the more quickly work is finished.	*Many hands ____*
11. It is better to be rebuked by a friend who has our interests at heart than to gain approval from someone who agrees with us even when we are wrong.	*A ____ is better than a ____*
12. If you want to succeed, you must make the effort as well.	*____ those who help ____*
13. A fervent belief in something can make a difference to what you want to achieve.	*____ will move ____*
14. If an unlawful action is committed, there is no justification for a second unlawful action being committed.	*Two ____ do not make ____*

Challenge 7

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Don't do anything that will stir up unnecessary trouble. *Let sleeping* ______
2. After every unpleasant incident, something better will inevitably take place. *After a* ______ *comes a* ______
3. However old a person may be, it is never too late to change one's ways. *It is* ______ *too late* ______
4. People newly appointed to posts tend to make big changes and do it thoroughly. *New* ______ *sweep* ______
5. Don't make eating the most important thing in your life, but eat enough to lead a meaningful life. *Live not* ______, *but eat* ______
6. Those who arrive early get a better choice. *First* ______, *first* ______
7. We should not discuss intimate family matters in public, especially if they are of a shameful nature. *Don't* ______ *in public*
8. Our lives are full of ups and downs, neither good fortune nor ill fortune lasts forever. *Every flow* ______
9. Apples and fruits keep us healthy and build our body resistance against sickness. *An* ______ *keeps the* ______ *away*
10. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. *Do unto others as you would* ______ ______
11. Kinship is a very strong tie. Never underestimate the strength of family bonds. ______ *than water*
12. By studying the character of a child, we can tell what sort of man he is going to be. *The child* ______ *of the man*
13. If too many people try to do the same thing at the same time, chaos will set in. *Too many* ______ *spoil the* ______
14. If an ignorant person leads other ignorant people, any undertaking is doomed to failure. *If the blind* ______, *both shall* ______,

Challenge 8

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. A bully tends to target victims who are weaker and smaller than he is because he does not have the courage to attack anyone that is his own size. ______ *is always a* ______
2. Adjust your expenditure according to your resources. *Cut* ______ *according to* ______ ______
3. Do not make judgments about something or someone based on outward appearances. *Don't* ______ *by its* ______
4. Do not be too modest to set a good example for others to follow. *Hide* ______ *under a* ______
5. If a person makes no protest, we assume he has no objections. *Silence* ______
6. If you are away from home, adapt yourself to your surroundings and the local customs. *When in* ______, *do as* ______
7. Be careful what you say and where you say it, for there might be discreditable people around you. *Walls* ______
8. People deserve to be paid duly for the work that they do. ______ *is worthy of his* ______
9. There is always some truth or ground for a rumour for it must stem from somewhere. ______ *without fire*
10. Do not always expect others to help you. Be self-reliant and independent. ______ *your own* ______
11. If you have an unpleasant experience, you are anxious to avoid a repetition. *Once* ______, *twice* ______
12. Every prospect, however grim, has a hopeful side. *Every* ______ *has a* ______ *lining*
13. People are greedy and are never contented with what they have. *The more* ______, *the more* ______ ______
14. This proverb emphasises the insignificance of names. It is not what a thing is called that matters, but what it essentially is. *A rose by* ______ *would smell* ______

Challenge 9

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1.	It is permissible to use every stratagem and take chances to win someone's heart.	*All's ____ in love and ____*
2.	It is better to be by yourself than to be with people who will corrupt your morals.	*Better to be ____ than in ____*
3.	It is useless to regret a loss or mistake after it has happened because by then, it is too late.	*Don't cry ____*
4.	We should not waste time on trivial aspects of a matter because in doing so, we may neglect the essentials.	*Catch not at ____ and lose the ____*
5.	Saving money is as good as earning it.	*A ____ is a penny ____*
6.	The fact that a man says little does not mean he does not think profoundly, whilst those who talk the most have no depth.	*Still ____ run ____*
7.	Whoever tells you tales about other people will tell other people tales about you.	*Who chatters to you ____*
8.	The quality of something can be judged only after it has been tested.	*The ____ is in the eating*
9.	It is the end that matters, making up for previous failures and disappointments.	*All's well that ____*
10.	If you think the remarks made refer to you, then act accordingly.	*If the ____ fits, ____*
11.	A person who tries to do too many things will never be extremely successful, so one should concentrate on one skill and learn to do it well.	*A Jack of ____ is master ____*
12.	The greater a person's knowledge, the more power one has.	*Knowledge ____*
13.	Foolish people act hastily and do or say things that wiser people would avoid.	*____ where angels fear to ____*
14.	Nothing is achieved simply by using fine, elegant words.	*Fine ____ butter no ____*

Challenge 10

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1.	The person who waits patiently usually gets what he wants in the end, provided he goes on trying.	*Everything ____ who waits*
2.	If you have done something wrong and admit to it, you are close to putting things right again.	*A fault ____ is half ____*
3.	A person in any desperate situation will snatch at any chance, no matter how slim, to save himself from disaster or ruin.	*____ will clutch at a ____*
4.	A person's home is where his loved ones are, where one can rest his soul.	*____ is where the ____*
5.	Truthfulness and integrity are good virtues that ought to be practised at all times.	*____ is the best ____*
6.	This proverb warns us against procrastination. Do not put off anything you can do now.	*There is ____ like the ____*
7.	Any single piece of evidence is not enough to prove anything. It may even be an exception.	*____ does not make a ____*
8.	Many sons take after their fathers, not only in looks but also in character.	*Like ____, like ____*
9.	Once a person loses his reputation, he is likely to be blamed for the misdeeds of others as well.	*Give a dog a ____ and ____*
10.	People tend to assume that you will be similar to your friends and those whom you choose to associate with.	*____ is known by the ____*
11.	Don't make public anything that should be kept private.	*Don't tell tales ____*
12.	One can arrive at a common objective by different means.	*All roads ____*
13.	As people get older, they are less receptive to new skills or new ideas.	*You cannot teach ____*
14.	It is impossible to make something fine or excellent out of poor materials.	*You ____ out of a sow's ear*

Challenge 11

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Events, especially misfortunes, always come together and not one at a time. — *It never _____ but _____*
2. We must learn to obey orders before we are qualified to give them. — *_____ command _____, cannot _____*
3. Nothing gives us an appetite like hunger. It makes us crave for food. — *Hunger is the _____*
4. If what you propose to do deserves your attention and is not trivial, then time should not be wasted on it. Do it to the best of your ability. — *If a thing _____, it is worth _____*
5. Never be too critical of anything you have received as a gift. — *Never _____ in the mouth*
6. If we attempt to do too much at once, we shall not do anything properly. — *Don't have _____ fire*
7. We should be thankful for what we receive, even when it is not as much as we had hoped for. — *Half _____ is better than _____*
8. If you are too greedy, you will lose even what you already have. — *Grasp all, _____*
9. In times of difficulty or danger, any refuge is better than none. — *Any port _____*
10. People who cannot get what they want are inclined to pretend that they never wanted it, in order to save face. — *The grapes _____*
11. Pleasures cannot go on forever, for all things change at one point or other. — *_____ must come to an end*
12. Once we have committed ourselves to some extent in an undertaking, we may as well go through it. — *In for a _____, in for a _____*
13. Two people who work in the same trade or profession seldom agree with each other's views. — *Two _____ never agree*
14. When the person in control is away, those under him will take advantage of the situation. — *When the _____, the _____ _____*

Challenge 12

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Important tasks call for a lot of hard work and take a long time to complete. — *Rome was not _____*
2. It is what we do that matters, not just what we say. — *Actions _____ than _____*
3. The enthusiasm of an inexperienced person may do more harm than good. — *Zeal _____ is a _____ horse*
4. Choose the right moment to act or to take advantage of a sudden opportunity. — *Strike while _____*
5. A person who utters threats in a loud voice need not be taken seriously. — *_____ seldom bite*
6. We should not judge by looks alone as physical beauty may hide an ugly nature. — *Beauty is only _____*
7. Do not delay in taking action, for circumstances may change before you do something. — *_____ wait for no man*
8. Starting a task is halfway to getting it accomplished. — *A _____ is half done*
9. The truth cannot be concealed indefinitely and will be revealed sooner or later. — *The truth _____*
10. Every minute or second is financially valuable. It should be squandered. — *Time _____*
11. This proverb emphasises the success that people and groups can achieve if they act together and the failure which is likely to occur if they act single-handedly. — *United _____, divided _____*
12. Failure should not deter us, for there are always other opportunities around. — *When one _____, another _____*
13. Things of good quality often come in small amounts. — *_____ come in small _____*
14. Don't make a fuss over a minor matter and make it more difficult than it actually is. — *Don't _____ out of a _____*

Challenge 13

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Never look for trouble. Don't worry about something before it happens.	*Never ____ till ____ troubles you*
2. We should not get things back to front, but should deal with them in their right order.	*Don't ____ before the ____*
3. Even the most outstanding person is liable to make mistakes.	*____ sometimes nods*
4. There is no place like home. It is the best place to be in.	*East ____, ____ is the best*
5. The best way to lead a happy life is to be honest in whatever you do.	*Honesty is the ____*
6. If you think it's necessary to make changes, you must choose the right moment to make them.	*Don't change ____ in ____*
7. We should not always be working, but take time off to relax or we would become boring people.	*All work ____ makes Jack ____*
8. It is better to be safe than do anything that may place you in a dangerous situation.	*Better ____ than ____*
9. Don't take unnecessary risks, profit from the experience of others.	*The beaten road ____*
10. Never be too optimistic about anything, wait till your difficulties are over before you boast of success.	*Don't count ____ before ____*
11. Persons weak in health seem to live a long time and never seem to die off.	*A ____ hangs long*
12. This proverb puts man in a positive light - that no one is completely bad or as bad as described.	*The devil ____ as he is painted*
13. Do not put off doing things as delay wastes time and results in inefficiency.	*____ is the ____ of time*
14. This proverb emphasises the importance of teamwork - that people who work together are more likely to succeed.	*Union ____*

Challenge 14

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Somethings that happen in real life are stranger than those related in books.	*____ is stranger than ____*
2. A witty remark or retort is all the better for being abbreviated. Short and sweet is the way to go.	*____ is the soul ____*
3. We tend to feel more affection for our friends when we are parted from them.	*____ makes the heart ____ ____*
4. We must be responsible for the consequences of our actions.	*As you ____, so you must ____*
5. The more we hurry, the more likely we are to mess things up.	*Haste ____*
6. Curses or evil wishes are less likely to injure the person cursed than the curser himself.	*____, like chickens, ____ to roost*
7. In striving for perfection, we often spoil what would have been good enough.	*____ is often the enemy ____ ____*
8. Any painful experience is not easily forgotten and that person is careful to make sure that it does not happen again.	*____ dreads fire*
9. Speak plainly and to the point, saying exactly what you mean using the simplest terms.	*Call a spade ____*
10. Many people seldom complete what they have undertaken, for they lack the tenacity to go on.	*He who ____ finishes but ____*
11. Worrying makes things worse than they really are, so don't worry.	*Care killed ____*
12. We should be kind to our family members before we show kindness to strangers.	*Charity begins ____*
13. Don't make changes unnecessarily halfway through a project; choose the right moment to make them if it is really imperative.	*Don't change ____*
14. Even the meekest, most humble people will start defending themselves if they are treated badly.	*Even ____ will ____*

Challenge 15

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Striving for contentment of mind is more important than material wealth.	*A contented mind* ______ ______
2. Don't worry about something before it happens, your fears may be groundless.	*Don't cross* ______ *until you* ______
3. When someone commits an evil act upon you, you ought to take revenge on him in the same manner.	*An eye* ______, *a tooth* ______ ______
4. If someone has offered kindness to you, you should repay it.	______ *deserves another*
5. Only by doing something again and again will you be able to achieve efficiency.	*Practice* ______
6. Do not take on more work than you are able to keep up with.	______ *no more than you* ______ ______
7. This refers to someone who is careful in small matters but wasteful in big matters.	*Penny* ______, *pound* ______
8. Crime will not benefit a person, for one will rarely escape retribution for the bad deeds he commits.	*Crime doesn't* ______
9. Things are more attractive at a distance; they cease to enchant us if we get closer to them.	*Distance* ______ *to the view*
10. One should be very careful about details and be meticulous in one's work.	*Cross one's t's and* ______
11. Showing too much interest in someone else's affairs can be harmful or damaging. Mind your own business!	*Curiosity* ______ *the* ______
12. Beauty exists only in the consciousness of those who see it.	*Beauty is in the* ______
13. As long as the ending is satisfactory or happy, it doesn't matter what difficulties or problems occurred before that.	*All's well* ______
14. It does not matter if you have only few friends as long as they are good ones.	______ *should be few but* ______

Challenge 16

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Progress results when we are not satisfied with the existing and want to improve.	______ *is the first step to* ______
2. If a criticism or remark made about you is applicable, then acknowledge it to be the case.	*If* ______, *wear it*
3. This proverb emphasises the weakness in legal systems - that there are defects in all laws.	*Every* ______ *has a* ______
4. Little by little, you'll have a lot. Accumulate everything and you'll have abundance of something.	*Many* ______ *makes a* ______
5. Every mighty undertaking starts from somewhere.	______ *must have a* ______
6. This refers to anyone whose circumstances are such that he has no choice in a matter.	______ *cannot be* ______
7. The fact that you are unaware of the existence of a law does not excuse you for not acting in accordance with it.	______ *is no excuse for* ______
8. People of one social class are often ignorant of the problems of those of another class.	______ *knows not how the other* ______
9. People remain as friends better if they don't see too much of one another.	______ *keeps friendship green*
10. The risk of disappointment or failure increases in proportion to the height of one's ambition or position.	*The higher* ______, *the* ______
11. When nobody is directly responsible for doing a thing, nobody does it.	______ *is nobody's business*
12. It is in the nature of man to look forward to better times in spite of present setbacks and disappointments.	______ *in the human breast*
13. It is part of human nature to have faults and make mistakes.	*To err* ______
14. This proverb is used to encourage people not to be put off by a humble start, for everything begins from small.	*Every oak from* ______

Challenge 17

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

		Clue
1.	The higher a person climbs, the heavier will be his fall.	*The ____ is not the safest ____*
2.	If you are unable to get your own way, you must bow to the inevitable.	*If the hill will ____ Mahomet will ____*
3.	Setting an example is better than making a rule.	____ *is better than* ____
4.	Don't try to do two things at once; concentrate on one thing at a time.	*If you ____, you will catch ____*
5.	Bad times won't go on forever; things will improve sooner or later.	____ *that has no turning*
6.	All kinds of wickedness spring from a desire for money.	*Love ____ is the root ____*
7.	It is better to be healthy than wealthy, for you cannot buy good health with money.	____ *is better than* ____
8.	No matter how bad an event is, someone can usually gain something from it.	*It is an ____ that blows ____*
9.	Seize the opportunity and act promptly when the conditions are right.	*Make ____ while the ____*
10.	Give assistance to anyone who is in difficulty.	*Help ____ over a ____*
11.	Don't fuss over a small matter and turn it into disaster.	*Don't make ____ out of a ____*
12.	People will share with you your interests and feelings if you are cheerful, but when you are sad, people tend to keep away from you.	*Laugh and the world ____ ____, weep and you ____*
13.	In any enterprise, there must be a leader.	*If two men ____, one must ____*
14.	People are always inclined to hope, even in the most desperate situations.	*Hope springs ____*

Challenge 18

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

		Clue
1.	It is better to be worn out with activities than to die as a result of doing nothing.	*It is better to ____ than to ____*
2.	There is a cause for everything that happens in life.	*Every ____ has a ____*
3.	It is easier to destroy than to create.	____ *to pull down than to* ____
4.	Don't be too optimistic about anything because the outcome might be quite different.	*Don't count ____ before they are ____*
5.	It's too late to take precautions after something has happened.	*It is too late ____ when the horse ____*
6.	The trouble, when added to one's present difficulties, makes one lose patience and feel unbearable.	*It is the ____ that breaks the ____*
7.	Nothing is as good as it seems to be, for reality often falls short from our expectations.	*Expectation is ____ ____*
8.	Pleasure is accompanied by pain sooner or later.	*There is no ____ without ____*
9.	A person may be so persistent about asserting his innocence that people become suspicious of him.	*He who denies all ____*
10.	Cheerfulness makes one forget troubles. Humour makes people see things in a more positive way.	____ *is the best* ____
11.	People's tastes differ and everyone should be allowed to choose what they like and dislike.	*Every ____ has his ____*
12.	Nobody is so honest or incorruptible as not to accept a bribe if it is attractive enough.	*Every ____ has his ____*
13.	Too much of something or someone can make us cease to appreciate them or even cause us to dislike them.	*Familiarity ____*
14.	A person must work his way up step by step in order to succeed in life.	*He who would ____ ____ must begin at the ____*

Challenge 19

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. It is wiser to conserve your energy for a future occasion than to fight a battle that you can't win. — *He that fights ______ may live to ______*
2. If one thing is exchanged for another in more or less equal value, then no one has been cheated. — ______ *is no robbery*
3. If they don't change their minds, you must change yours. — ______*, join them*
4. If you get married hastily, you'll have plenty of time to regret. — *Marry in* ______*, and repent at* ______
5. You must learn something step by step before advancing to the next stage. — ______ *before you run*
6. This proverb emphasises the power which faith has. It can do wonders. — *Faith will* ______
7. A rich person will only know who his real friends are when he loses all his wealth. — *Prosperity* ______*, adversity* ______
8. A person who occupies the lowest position cannot fall any further and therefore has no fear of falling. — ______ *need fear no fall*
9. If you try to do something too fast, it turns out to be slower. — *More* ______*, less* ______
10. You cannot do a job properly without suitable equipment, material or resources. — *You* ______ *without straw*
11. People are never satisfied with what they already have. — *The more* ______*, the more* ______
12. The worst thing is that a person chooses to ignore something when it demands attention. — *None so blind* ______
13. Any course of action to achieve victory in love or war can be deemed as acceptable. — *All's fair in* ______
14. Relationships between members of the same family are stronger than acquaintances made in one's life. — ______ *is thicker than* ______

Challenge 20

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Lengthy explanations tend to make a mistake worse. — *Least* ______*, soonest* ______
2. If a chance comes your way, don't miss it, or you may never get another chance. — ______ *seldom knocks* ______
3. Behave in the same way as you would advise others to behave. — *Practise* ______.
4. If you help me, I'll return you the favour. This proverb is often used with reference to something not completely honest. — *You* ______ *and I will* ______ *yours*
5. To praise a good man is to encourage him to behave even better but to praise a bad man is to encourage him to behave from bad to worse. — *Praise makes* ______ *and* ______
6. We tend to imagine that we have a greater load to carry than anybody else; or that nobody works harder than we do. — ______ *thinks its own pack* ______
7. Nothing is perfect, so it is unrealistic to set too high expectations about the things around you. — *There is no* ______ *without* ______
8. You won't get sympathy from someone who is totally unfeeling. — *You cannot* ______ *out of a* ______
9. One cannot attain learning without hard work. There is no short cut to it. — *There is no* ______ *to* ______
10. We should be optimistic, but at the same time be ready to meet possible trouble. — *Hope* ______ *and prepare* ______
11. If you are already involved in something for which you will be punished, you may as well continue with it. — *As well be hanged* ______ *as a* ______
12. We are all liable to make mistakes, so it is magnanimous to forgive others' mistakes. — *To err is* ______*, to forgive,* ______
13. If we do something in too much of a hurry, we are more likely to waste time. — *More* ______*, less* ______
14. Something that is beneficial should be used with care, otherwise it may do more harm than good. — ______ *is a good servant but a* ______

Challenge 21

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. It is too late to regret an action after it has occurred.	*What ______ cannot be ______*
2. A slight sign is all you need to get someone to understand what you mean.	*A nod is as ______ as a wink to a ______*
3. You cannot do two opposite things at once and the same time.	*You cannot burn ______ at ______*
4. The more money you have, the easier it becomes to make even more money.	*Money ______*
5. Experienced people are shrewd and cannot be easily deceived.	*You cannot catch ______ with ______*
6. One misfortune is generally followed by another.	*______ never come ______*
7. Do not try to change things which are already satisfactory.	*Let ______*
8. A person cannot be so deceitful as to support one side and offer help secretly to the opposing side.	*You cannot run ______ and hunt ______*
9. However happy we are, there is always a tinge of sadness or disappointment.	*There is no ______ without ______*
10. Don't be faint-hearted or refuse to try things out as you may be surprised by your own capabilities.	*You never know ______ till you ______*
11. If you are economical and careful with your money, you won't have a lack of it.	*______ not, ______ not*
12. There is no reason why an ordinary person should not look at someone of great importance.	*A ______ may look ______*
13. All food, however plain and simple, tastes delicious if you are hungry.	*______ is the best ______*
14. You cannot expect to get something for nothing. You need to do something about it to make things happen.	*You cannot make ______ without ______*

Challenge 22

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. If you don't take care of your money and use it sensibly, you will lose it.	*A fool and his money ______*
2. You cannot expect young people to be as wise and prudent as their elders.	*You cannot put ______ on ______*
3. The possession of wealth can bring great power and influence.	*______ can open any ______*
4. Even the meekest person will start defending themselves if they are treated badly enough.	*Even a ______ will ______*
5. People who lie have to remember what lies they have told so that they do not contradict themselves in the future.	*______ ought to have a ______*
6. It is better to be cautious and not take any risks although such caution may appear cowardly.	*Discretion is the ______*
7. Having a little knowledge of something can lead to problems, especially if you overestimate your knowledge.	*A little knowledge ______*
8. Being clean is second in importance only to being religious and pious.	*______ is next to ______*
9. You may help someone do something, yet there is a point beyond which he will not go.	*You may lead ______, but you cannot ______*
10. We should take advantage of everything that comes along.	*All's ______ that comes ______*
11. Merit is often obscured by worthlessness.	*There is ______ without ______*
12. Someone who has some experience of wrongdoing is the best person to catch people who are doing wrong.	*An ______ makes the best ______*
13. Committed to a course of action and prepared to take risks to go through with it.	*In for a ______, in ______*
14. Someone who admires another person greatly often shows this admiration by copying that person's mannerisms, dressings etc.	*______ is the sincerest form of ______*

Challenge 23

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. This proverb is used to discourage an inquisitive person from asking questions. — *Ask* ______ *and hear* ______
2. It is better to be careful and avoid risks than to be careless and regret later. — *Better be* ______ *than* ______
3. Children should not draw attention to themselves by being noisy or making a nuisance of themselves. — ______ *and not heard*
4. People deserve to be paid for the work that they do. — ______ *is worth his* ______
5. A true friend is someone who helps you when you are in some kind of trouble. — *A friend* ______ *is a* ______
6. Death makes everyone equal, regardless of whatever inequalities there have been in life. — ______ *is the great* ______
7. Things of good quality often come in small amounts and not necessarily in large quantities. — *The* ______ *come in* ______ ______
8. Someone's ability or talent is not always recognised by their fellow countrymen, although they may be held in high regard elsewhere. — *A prophet is not* ______, *save in his* ______
9. If you once succeed at something, you are more likely to achieve further successes and be held in high regard. — *Nothing* ______ *like* ______
10. This proverb is used to warn someone not to try to hurt someone else in such a way he harms himself. — *Don't cut* ______ *to* ______ ______
11. Money which is acquired with little effort will be spent just as easily. — *Easy* ______, *easy* ______
12. Admitting that one has done wrong makes one feel better. — ______ *is good for* ______
13. There is always an element of truth in a rumour. — *There is no* ______ *without* ______
14. In certain situations, it is better not to know about something than to be aware of the truth. — ______ *is bliss*

Challenge 24

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Every person, however unfortunate, will experience a period of good fortune at some point in his life. — *Every* ______ *has* ______
2. Tolerate others' actions and expect them to tolerate one's own. — *Live and* ______
3. It is better to arrive somewhere later than arranged or expected than never to arrive at all. — ______ *than never*
4. Something that is of high quality does not require to be advertised or promoted. — ______ *needs no bush*
5. If a job or project is carried out properly from the start, then it is likely to turn out well. — ______ *makes a goo* ______
6. Clever people form the same opinions about things or make the same decisions. — *Great* ______ *think* ______
7. Someone who is alone with no dependants is likely to make more progress in life and be more successful. — ______ *who travels alone*
8. Very big obstacles can be overcome by continuous and persistent effort. — *Little* ______ *fell* ______
9. This proverb points out the advantage of being prudent and of conserving your energy for another occasion. — *He who fights* ______, *may live to fight* ______
10. It often helps to discuss a problem with someone, rather than worry about it alone. — *A trouble* ______ *is a* ______ ______
11. The basic characteristics of a person, usually undesirable, do not change. — ______ *never changes its* ______
12. This proverb emphasises the advantages of giving. — *It is better* ______ *than* ______
13. You are in a better position to deal with a situation when you have warning of it in advance and can make the necessary preparations. — *Forwarned* ______
14. The satisfaction which comes from knowing that you have done the right thing, is in itself a sufficient reward. — *Virtue is* ______

Challenge 25

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. The person who has the final victory has more reason to celebrate than someone who has an insignificant win in the course of an action.
   He who laughs ____, ____
2. When you are being blamed, it is better to tackle the situation in a positive and aggressive way than be submissive.
   ____ *is the best form of* ____
3. If something happens once, it is likely to happen again.
   History ____
4. People who are not very clever are easily pleased or amused.
   Little ____ *please little* ____
5. You are more likely to influence or persuade people if you use friendly, soothing language than sharp, unfriendly language.
   ____ *catch more flies than* ____
6. Things may not always turn out the way we want them to.
   Man ____, *God* ____
7. To leave or escape while there is still an opportunity.
   Go while the ____
8. This proverb recommends orderliness and is particularly liked by extremely tidy people.
   A place for everything, and ____ ____
9. Someone who admires another person very much often shows this admiration by copying that person's mannerisms, actions, clothes, etc.
   ____ *is the sincerest form of* ____
10. Beware of someone whom you know to be an enemy when he is making a friendly gesture.
    ____ *bearing gifts*
11. This proverb is used to comfort people who are experiencing a period of misfortune by reminding them that it cannot go on forever.
    It's a ____ *that has no* ____
12. Nothing is achieved simply by using fine, elegant words.
    Fine ____ *butter no* ____
13. The enthusiasm of an inexperienced person may do more harm than good.
    Zeal without ____ *is a* ____ ____
14. Be care of what you say and where you say it, if you are talking about something confidential.
    Walls ____

Challenge 26

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. This proverb is a warning to be careful of what you say in front of children because they understand more than you think.
   Little pitchers ____
2. If you follow someone's example, it shows that you truly admire him.
   Imitation is the ____ *of* ____
3. You should not disregard a small contribution as unimportant, as small amounts make a large amount.
   Every ____
4. This proverb emphasises the importance and power of love, indicating that the world cannot operate without it.
   ____ *makes the world* ____
5. You can tell a lot about a person's character by looking into his eyes.
   The eyes are the ____
6. With the passing of time, things will get better and improve.
   Time is a ____
7. When people are in love, they are able to overcome any obstacle put in their way of love.
   ____ *will find a* ____
8. A joke or humorous remark may turn out to be a serious or true comment.
   ____ *is spoken in jest*
9. It is best to reconsider a decision before acting.
   Second ____ *are* ____
10. A woman who is rejected by a man is likely to be extremely angry and to seek revenge.
    ____ *like a woman scorned*
11. If the result of an action is good, it does not matter if the action which achieves this result is morally wrong or unjust.
    The ____ *justifies the* ____
12. This proverb reminds us that we should not put too much value on money and material things as there are other important things in life.
    Money ____
13. If you do not punish children when they have done wrong, they will become spoilt and badly behaved.
    ____ *and spoil the* ____
14. What one likes may be disliked by another. Everybody has different preferences.
    One man's ____ *is another* ____ ____

Challenge 27

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. It is difficult to stop doing something that you have been doing regularly for a long time. ______ *die hard*

2. This proverb is often used to suggest that someone has inherited the bad character traits of his parent. ______ *never falls far from* ______

3. Treat other people in the manner in which you would like them to treat you. *Do as you* ______

4. There is usually someone who benefits from someone else's misfortune. ______ *is another man's gain*

5. Powerful people are often regarded as right, simply because they are powerful and cannot be challenged. *Might is* ______

6. It is impossible to explain why some people like some things and others like different things. *There is no* ______

7. This proverb emphasises the effectiveness of a picture in providing a description of something. *A* ______ *is worth a* ______

8. Being poor is nothing to be ashamed of. ______ *not a crime*

9. There is no point in worrying about something before it actually happens. *Don't* ______ *halfway*

10. Being punctual is an indication that you are well-mannered and have been well brought up. ______ *is the politeness of* ______

11. Whatever the attractions and benefits of travel, home is still the best place to be. *East, west,* ______

12. If you look hard enough for something, you will find it. *Seek and ye* ______

13. You cannot do a job properly without suitable equipment, material or resources. *You cannot* ______ *without* ______

14. Do not assume that something will happen on the basis of one single indication, any single piece of information is not enough to prove anything. ______ *does not make a* ______

Challenge 28

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. This is said when a person who was being talked about suddenly appears. ______, *and he will appear* ______

2. The habit of going to bed early and getting up early has advantages to one's health, wealth and wisdom. *Early to bed and* ______ *makes a man* ______, *wealthy and* ______

3. The more important you are, the greater will be your failure if things go wrong. *The bigger* ______, *the harder* ______

4. Every man for himself. *Devils take* ______

5. Those who are not kept busy by work or some useful activity will start doing things which are harmful. *The devil finds* ______ *to do*

6. What you first think of someone or something tends to last a long time and have an effect on your long-term opinion of them. *First* ______ *are the most* ______

7. This proverb suggests that virtuous people die at a younger age than others. *The good* ______

8. This is a warning against putting off doing things as delay wastes time. ______ *is the thief of* ______

9. Words are more effective than weapons. ______ *is mightier than the* ______

10. Be careful that you do not get rid of something good along with bad things when you are making changes. *Don't throw* ______ *out with the* ______

11. You should beware of saying that something will never happen as unexpected events often take place. ______ *is a long* ______

12. Often things that are large and successful begin in a small, insignificant way. ______ *from little acorns* ______

13. Dead people cannot make any comments or give any information. ______ *tells no tale*

14. Even the best of us are prone to mistakes. *Even Homer* ______

Challenge 29

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. People can have good intentions and still act wrongly or inappropriately.
   The road to ______ *is paved with* ______ ______
2. The sooner you start something, the sooner you will finish it.
   The ______ *begun, the* ______ *done*
3. Do not be so gullible as to believe all the news which you might hear and do not place complete trust in what you see.
   Believe nothing ______ *and half of* ______
4. No matter how much we plan, something that surprises us will crop up.
   ______ *always happens*
5. If you take risks, you will get hurt or damaged in some ways.
   If you ______*, you get* ______
6. The way to get a man to like you is to prepare good food for him to eat.
   The way to ______ *is through his* ______
7. There are plenty of opportunities still available, although some may have been lost.
   There are as good fishes ______ *as ever* ______
8. There are several ways of achieving the same result.
   There is more than ______ *a cat*
9. If you ask someone a foolish or unnecessary question, you cannot expect to get a serious and helpful answer.
   Ask a ______ *and you get a* ______
10. Thieves and wrongdoers may deceive others but they do not treat each other in a similar way.
    There is ______ *among* ______
11. If you have not heard anything about someone, it is likely that nothing bad has taken place.
    ______ *is good news*
12. A person can look more impressive if he dresses smartly.
    Fine feathers ______
13. Say what you mean plainly and to the point using simple terms.
    Call a ______
14. We feel more for a person when we do not see him as often, we would long for his company.
    ______ *makes the heart* ______ ______

Challenge 30

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. It is more difficult to get someone to understand a situation if they refuse to do so.
   There's none ______ *as those who* ______
2. If enough bad things are said about a person, some of them will be believed.
   ______ *and some will* ______
3. The fact that you were unaware of the existence of a law, rule or regulation does not excuse you for not acting in accordance with it.
   Ignorance ______ *is no excuse for* ______
4. People's tastes differ and everyone should be allowed to choose what they like and dislike.
   Every ______ *to his* ______
5. If you have done something wrong and admit to it, you have gone a long way towards putting things right again.
   A ______ *is half* ______
6. If you have enough of something, then you should be content with that and not want unnecessarily large amounts.
   Enough is ______
7. Travel extends one's knowledge through experience with different cultures and customs.
   ______ *the mind*
8. Whatever you do or say, no matter how novelistic you think it is, would have been done or said by those before your time.
   There is ______ *under* ______
9. If a third person is present, it prevents the other two from enjoying each other's company.
   Two is ______*, three* ______
10. You cannot judge someone's character or predict their likely behaviour from how they look.
    Appearances ______
11. The satisfaction which comes from knowing that you have done the right thing is sufficient reward.
    ______ *is its own* ______
12. If something cannot be got rid of, you have to put up with it.
    What can't ______ *must be* ______
13. You have nothing to lose by being polite and friendly.
    Courtesy ______
14. We should take advantage of things that come our way.
    All's fish that ______

Challenge 31

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. A change from your usual routine will do you as much good as a holiday from it.
   _____ is as good as a _____
2. If you decide to take revenge on someone who has harmed you, it does not mean you will be doing the right thing.
   Two _____ don't make _____
3. It is a natural part of growing up for boys to be mischievous or unruly.
   Boys will _____
4. Concentrate on today's problems and do not worry about those which might happen in the future.
   Sufficient unto _____ is the _____ _____
5. If one wants to be rich, then one should learn to be thrifty.
   A _____ is a penny _____
6. Someone who knows very little about something can appear to be very knowledgeable, if other people involved are even more ignorant.
   In the _____, the one-eyed man is _____
7. Things always seem at their worst before they begin to improve.
   The _____ is just before the _____
8. News about something unfortunate or unpleasant gets communicated from person to person rapidly.
   _____ travels fast
9. One should act as instructed and not copy the actions of the user.
   Do as _____, not _____
10. Inherited characteristics or family traits cannot be concealed and can be obvious.
    Blood _____
11. We tend to take things for granted and not realise how much we need them until they are no longer there.
    You never miss _____ till the _____
12. Smart, elegant clothes can improve the physical appearance greatly and people tend to judge others by how they look.
    _____ make the _____
13. You may miss an opportunity if your action is not fast enough.
    The _____ catches the _____
14. If you are too greedy, you may lose even what you already have.
    _____ all, _____ all

Challenge 32

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. There are two differing points of view in every dispute or proposal.
   There are _____ to every _____
2. Make sure that people under your control quarrel among themselves, thus making it less likely that they will unite to overthrow you.
   Divide _____
3. Only a very nasty person would do something to harm his family and friends.
   It's _____ that fouls its _____ _____
4. This proverb urges people not to criticise others or they themselves will be condemned.
   _____, that ye be not _____
5. People should concentrate on what they are qualified to do and leave other jobs to those who are qualified to do them.
   Let _____ stick to his _____
6. Many people are not willing to believe in something until they see it.
   Seeing _____
7. There is a limit to how much you can put into space or time that is available to you.
   You cannot put _____ into a _____
8. This proverb warns against putting things off instead of doing them right away.
   Delays _____
9. Pleasure cannot last forever and will eventually end one day.
   All _____ must come to _____
10. You would expect people to be wiser as they grow older, but some may be more foolish than young people.
    There's _____ like an _____
11. Urgent or serious situations require to be dealt with by urgent or serious action.
    Desperate _____ must have _____ _____
12. It is a matter of luck whom you marry and whether you will be happy or not.
    Marriage is _____
13. Always examine what you buy before you pay for it.
    Never buy _____ in a _____
14. You cannot get upset over something you don't know.
    What the _____, the heart doesn't _____

Challenge 33

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. People should concentrate on what they are qualified to do and leave other things to those who are qualified to do them. *Every man* ________
2. It is inevitable for things to come to an end. ________ *has an* ____
3. You should acknowledge that someone has done well or is worthy of praise, even if you do not like the person or if he or she does not usually do good things. *Give the* ______ *his* ____.
4. This proverb emphasises the importance of experience in learning something more than qualifications, training or instruction. *Experience is* ________
5. There is no point in planning what you are going to do with something until you actually have it. ________ *your hare*
6. The most important things must be dealt with first. *First* ________
7. You are much more able to deal with a situation if you have advance warning and can make necessary preparations. *Forewarned* ________
8. Being lucky is more advantageous than being rich because luck can also bring wealth. *It is better to be* ________ *than* ____
9. Two people are more likely to notice something than one. ________ *see more than* ____
10. If you give someone freedom to do as he wishes, he will eventually destroy himself. *Give a man* ________ *and he will* ________
11. Do not spend too much effort on areas that have not much value, otherwise you may upset the whole situation. *Don't spoil* ______ *for a* ______ ______
12. Good looks are all very well, but they have their limitations and more is required of people than simply looking attractive. ________ *handsome does*
13. Fruits help to keep us healthy. ________ *keeps the doctor* ____
14. It is unhealthy and unfair to make comparisons between two people. *Comparisons* ________

Challenge 34

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. This proverb warns us against borrowing money as we will end up regretting such an action. *He that* ________ *goes a-sorrowing*
2. Just because something has not happened so far does not mean that it will never happen. *There is always* ________
3. If you are going to associate with bad or cunning people, you will have to be very careful. *He who sups* ________ *should have* ________
4. People are always inclined to hope, even in the most desperate situations. *Hope* ________
5. If you want to achieve anything worthwhile, you have to be prepared to put effort into it and do it well. *If a thing's* ________, *it's worth* ________
6. It is best to be cautious and not take unnecessary risks. *It is best* ________ *safe side*
7. There is no point in employing someone to do something if you are going to do the work yourself. *Why keep a* ________ *yourself?*
8. Beginning a task is the most difficult part of it; it gets easier as things start moving. *It is the* ________ *that is* ______
9. People who are like each other in some way often associate with each other. *Like will* ________
10. This proverb warns us against doing or taking too much of anything. *Moderation in* ________
11. Patience and perseverance are likely to result in achievement and success. ______ *but sure wins* ________
12. If you are in a risky situation, it is safer to be accompanied by several other people than to be alone. *There is* ______ *in* ______
13. It is better to be by yourself than in the company of those who will have bad influence on you. *Better to be* ________ *than in* ____ ________
14. You must take action in order to prevent an unpleasant or undesirable incident from happening. *Too late to* ________ *after the horse* ________

Challenge 35

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. We must accept the fact that society is inevitably made up of different kinds of people who vary greatly in opinions, attitudes or habits.
   It takes ______ *to make* ______
2. If you have wealth, you also have power and influence.
   Money ______
3. There cannot be a bargain unless two people agree to it and keep it.
   It takes ____ *to make* ______
4. A person who is in love with someone is usually not aware of the faults of the person he is in love with.
   Love is ______
5. This proverb warns us against postponing things until another time because they may never be done.
   ______ *never comes*
6. This proverb emphasises the impossibility of getting everybody to approve your actions or like you.
   You can't ______
7. This proverb highlights the obvious point that one person alone cannot quarrel.
   It takes ____ *to make* ______
8. This proverb advises people to get to know all about themselves.
   Know ______
9. You should not try to improve a situation if it is fine or acceptable as it is.
   Leave ______
10. Nothing can be achieved without some damage, accident or losses occurring.
    You cannot make ______ *without* ______
11. This proverb is a warning not to lend money to a friend as this may result in loss of friendship.
    Lend ______ *and lose your* ______
12. However close friends are, they have to separate at some point in their lives.
    The best of ______ *must* ____
13. A person who talks a lot probably has a lot of lies to tell too.
    A great ______ *is also a* ______
14. Return evil for evil. You should take revenge on the party who has caused you harm in any way.
    An eye ______ *, a tooth* ______

Challenge 36

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Marriage partners are arranged by God, therefore marriage should be a happy state.
   ______ *are made in* ______
2. This proverb emphasises the advantage of ignorance in certain situations.
   What you don't know ______
3. Things that add to quality of life and are precious do not cost any money.
   The best ______ *are free*
4. Money is responsible for many crimes and acts of wrongdoing in the world.
   Money is the ____ *of* ______
5. You can have an excess of everythings you like but you may still get tired or bored with them eventually.
   You can have ______ *of a* ______
6. Someone is forced to take a course of action which he does not want to take.
   ______ *when the devil* ____
7. This proverb is used to bring consolation to someone who is in great danger or difficulty.
   You can only ______
8. If you want to achieve something, you must be prepared to exert yourself or put effort in it.
   No ____ *, no* ____
9. In a situation which involves two people or groups, both sides are responsible for it.
   It takes ____ *to* ______
10. You cannot access what someone is like from his appearance.
    You can't ______ *by its* ____
11. Food supports life. Without it, man will not be able to survive.
    ______ *is the staff of* ____
12. Once something has happened and all the facts are known, it is easy to see what has gone wrong and how it should have been dealt with.
    It is easy ______ *after the* ____
13. News about something unfortunate or unpleasant pass from one person to another very quickly.
    ______ *travels fast*
14. The sooner you start something, the earlier you can finish it.
    The sooner ____ *, the sooner* ____

Challenge 37

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. Never act hastily. Consider carefully what you are going to do before you do it.
Look before ________

2. Don't start something you cannot control or resolve.
____________ *you cannot put out*

3. Foolish people act hastily and do or say things that wiser people would avoid.
___________ *where angels fear to* _____

4. A person who is idle will usually get into mischief.
An ________ *is the devil's* _____

5. If a choice has to be made between alternatives, you must have one or the other, but not both.
You cannot have ________ *and* __ __

6. Life becomes monotonous without change in one's daily routine.
Variety _________ *of life*

7. People who behave in a vain or arrogant way often suffer some form of misfortune.
Pride _____ *before* _____

8. Everything has to have a small beginning. All things start from small.
Every ____ *must be* ______

9. Empty-headed persons are always the most talkative and noisy.
Empty _____ *make the* _____

10. Secrets will not be unearthed when one is dead. Death silences a man forever.
Dead ____ *tell no* ____

11. There is usually some flaw or disadvantage involved in some fortunate situation.
No ____ *without a* ____

12. If you belittle yourself, people will take advantage of you.
Don't __________ *of yourself or the cat* ________

13. A person who is constantly moving from place to place, job to job, will never make money.
A _________ *gathers no* ____

14. There is a limit as to how much one can put into the space or time that is available to him; one should not try to do the impossible.
You cannot put __________ *into a* _______

Challenge 38

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. This proverb emphasises the importance of appropriateness and suitability.
There is a ________ *and a place for* ______

2. This proverb emphasises that you cannot be lucky or successful all the time.
You can't __________

3. Time passes extremely quickly.
Time ____

4. If you know the details of a situation, you are less likely to criticise someone or something.
To know ___ *is to* ________

5. Take advantage of whatever comes your way.
________ *that comes to the* ___

6. When people in love experience poverty, their love for each other comes to an end.
When poverty ______________, ____ *flies out* _________

7. This proverb indicates that things might improve in the future and you should put aside the problems of the present.
Tomorrow is _________

8. If you have never been in possession of something, you cannot feel a sense of loss.
What you've ________, *you never* ___

9. You cannot get money from someone who does not have any or who is too mean to give away any.
You cannot _________ *from a* ___

10. People and groups are more likely to be successful if they act together, rather than separately.
Union is _______

11. This proverb advises us to have patience and try not to be too ambitious before we have gained any experience of the simpler stages.
We must learn ________ *before* ___ ________

12. The more people are involved, the more enjoyable or successful the occasion will be.
The more _________

13. You must accept the consequences of your actions, however unpleasant they may be.
As you make ________, *so you must* ________

14. The world is populated with people with all sorts of character.
It takes ________ *to make* ______

Challenge 39

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. It is better to hold a high position in a small place than to hold a low position in a big place.
   Better be the head ________ than the tail ________
2. Inherited characteristics cannot be concealed and soon become obvious.
   What's bred ________ will come out ________
3. If someone is determined enough to do something, he or she will find the means of doing it.
   Where there's a ________, there's a ________
4. Better to be unerring about something than unsure about it.
   ________ than a hen tomorrow
5. If a person is still alive, he or she can hope to survive.
   While there's ______, there's ______
6. People are greedy and never satisfied with what they have.
   The more ________, the more ________
7. One is never too old to learn something new as long as one has a positive attitude to learning.
   You are never ________

You cannot be loyal to two people, organisations or principles that are completely opposed to each other.
________ can serve two ________

If you do something bad, you will have to accept even worse consequences which may follow.
________ and reap the ______

It is useless to try giving a hint to someone who is determined not to take it.
________ is as good as ________ to a ________

A person of great importance usually has more to worry about.
______ lies the ______ that wear the ______

One who cannot act promptly or decisively at the most crucial moment will fail.
He who ________ is ______

The best way to learn anything is by doing it.
________ is the best ________

Anything you can't get seem better than what you already have.
Apples on the ________ of the wall are ________

Challenge 40

After reading the sentences, write the correct proverbs in the blanks provided.

1. People who are not actually involved in something are more likely to have an objective point of view.
   ________ see more of the ______
2. People without money and power are treated more harshly than those who have money.
   One law ________ and another ________
3. The kind of food you eat has an important effect on the kind of person you are.
   You are what ________
4. This proverb warns against borrowing or lending money.
   Neither a ________ nor ________ be
5. If you can't make up your mind on which of two things to do, you are liable to do neither.
   Between ________ you fall to the ________
6. This proverb urges us not to be impatient.
   Patience is ________
7. Life always seems better somewhere else other than where you are living or working.
   ________ is always ________ on the other side
8. Every experience or situation can be used to the advantage or profit of someone.
   ________ that comes to the ______
9. If a project is carried out properly from the start, the job will take less time than it otherwise would.
   ________ is half ______
10. If you want to catch a wrongdoer, you should use the services of someone who has experience of wrongdoings.
    ________ to catch a thief
11. This proverb emphasises the uncertain nature of most things in life.
    Nothing is ________ but ________
12. Several things can go wrong between the start and end of a project.
    There's many a ________________
13. Having only a slight understanding of something can lead to problems.
    A little ________ is a ________
14. A humourous remark may turn out to be a true or serious comment.
    Many a ________________ is spoken ________

Challenge 1

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. A cock and bull story
   - *(1) a myth about animals*
   - *(2) a bedtime story for children*
   - [✓ *(3) a foolish and incredible story*]
   - *(4) a true account*
2. To buckle on one's armour
   - *(1) to wear an impressive suit*
   - *(2) to set to work energetically*
   - *(3) to go to war*
   - *(4) to go to a party*
3. To gain ground
   - [✓ *(1) to make progress*]
   - *(2) to win an argument*
   - *(3) to touch down*
   - *(4) to establish ties*
4. To pull to pieces
   - *(1) to damage everything*
   - *(2) to criticise*
   - *(3) to uncover the truth*
   - *(4) to be very angry*
5. To ride roughshod over
   - *(1) to treat in a high-handed manner*
   - *(2) to endure hard times*
   - *(3) to go against*
   - *(4) to play a rough game*
6. Dutch courage
   - *(1) courage induced by alcoholic beverages*
   - *(2) bravery that is not recognised*
   - *(3) recklessness*
   - *(4) courage that is not there*
7. A flash in the pan
   - *(1) a sudden, single success*
   - *(2) an inspiration*
   - *(3) a dangerous encounter*
   - *(4) a quick job*
8. A hard nut to crack
   - *(1) a disobedient child*
   - *(2) a stubborn person or problem*
   - [✓ *(3) a ridiculous moment*]
   - *(4) a difficult period*
9. At the eleventh hour
   - *(1) regularly*
   - *(2) very slowly*
   - [✓ *(3) at the last moment*]
   - *(4) at an early stage*
10. A red-letter day
    - *(1) an uneventful day*
    - *(2) a day of bloodshed*
    - *(3) a wedding*
    - [✓ *(4) a memorable day*]

Challenge 2

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Once in a blue moon
   - *(1) a very cold night*
   - [✓ *(2) a very rare occurrence*]
   - *(3) a romantic evening*
   - *(4) an unhappy day*
2. Nail the lie to the counter
   - *(1) expose it publicly*
   - *(2) hide the secret*
   - *(3) set up a new business*
   - *(4) forced to lie*
3. Lock, stock and barrel
   - *(1) the bare necessities*
   - *(2) kitchen utensils*
   - *(3) furniture*
   - *(4) the whole of everything*
4. His bread is well-buttered
   - *(1) he has just enjoyed a good meal*
   - *(2) everybody treats him well*
   - [✓ *(3) he is in fortunate circumstances*]
   - *(4) he does not have to work*
5. To be like a drowned rat
   - *(1) to be soaking wet*
   - *(2) to look untidy*
   - *(3) with an awful smell*
   - *(4) to be sick*
6. To be a dog in the manger
   - [✓ *(1) to be selfish and prevent others from using what one cannot use for himself*]
   - *(2) allowed to be controlled by others*
   - *(3) to do nothing with one's life*
   - *(4) to be nasty*
7. To paddle your own canoe
   - *(1) to work hard*
   - *(2) to earn your own money*
   - *(3) to be angry with oneself*
   - *(4) to be responsible for one's actions*
8. To let the cat out of the bag
   - *(1) to drop something accidentally*
   - *(2) to forget to bring something*
   - [✓ *(3) to let out the secret*]
   - *(4) to act impulsively*
9. To harp on the same string
   - *(1) to keep singing to the same tune*
   - *(2) to refer repeatedly to the same subject*
   - *(3) to make fun of the same person*
   - *(4) to do the same thing for years*
10. To hang up one's hat
    - *(1) to retire or stop work*
    - *(2) to stay awake overnight*
    - *(3) to make oneself comfortable in another person's home*
    - *(4) to forget to bring your belongings*

Challenge 3

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. In cold blood
    - *(1) in a very sick condition*
    - *(2) in fear*
    - [✓ *(3) deliberately, ruthlessly*]
    - *(4) unsympathetic*
2. It is as broad as it is long
    - *(1) very big in size*
    - *(2) it is the same misfortune or circumstances*
    - *(3) unable to measure or predict*
    - *(4) on equal terms*
3. Out of the wood
    - *(1) no longer responsible for*
    - *(2) no longer in the same social circle*
    - *(3) no longer unhappy*
    - *(4) no longer in danger*
4. Off the bat
    - *(1) without previous preparation*
    - *(2) way off limits*
    - *(3) totally mesmerising*
    - *(4) off duty*
5. To set by the ears
    - *(1) to lay down rules*
    - *(2) to cause strife or incite a quarrel*
    - *(3) to ignore or disobey instructions*
    - *(4) to listen carefully*
6. To square the circle
    - *(1) to imitate something or someone*
    - *(2) to distort the truth*
    - *(3) to disrupt one's life*
    - *(4) to attempt something impossible*
7. To show the cloven hoof
    - *(1) to reveal one's evil intentions*
    - *(2) to reveal one's weakness*
    - *(3) to intimidate someone by using authority*
    - *(4) to beat someone up*
8. To take the bit between one's teeth
    - *(1) to take what is said literally*
    - *(2) to get out of control*
    - *(3) to endure all hardships*
    - *(4) to distort what was said*
9. To throw cold water
    - *(1) to overload with work*
    - *(2) to bring someone to his senses*
    - [✓ *(3) to discourage effort*]
    - *(4) to inspire someone*
10. His better half
    - *(1) one's glorious days*
    - *(2) his dog*
    - [✓ *(3) his wife*]
    - *(4) his money*

Challenge 4

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. By fits and starts
    - *(1) do things quickly*
    - [✓ *(2) not continuously, but intermittently*]
    - *(3) very angry over something*
    - *(4) unable to settle down*
2. Back in harness
    - *(1) to take a break from work*
    - [✓ *(2) to resume work after a holiday*]
    - *(3) to slacken in work*
    - *(4) to decide to retire*
3. A bolt from the blue
    - *(1) a tragic accident*
    - *(2) an amusing incident*
    - [✓ *(3) a sudden occurrence that is unexpected*]
    - *(4) a pretty sight*
4. A white lie
    - [✓ *(1) a harmless, non-malicious untruth*]
    - *(2) a good death*
    - *(3) a holy event*
    - *(4) a misunderstanding*
5. To make a beeline
    - *(1) to work non-stop*
    - [✓ *(2) to reach the shortest distance between two places*]
    - *(3) to queue for hours*
    - *(4) to create a havoc*
6. Blue ribbon
    - *(1) unrecognised efforts*
    - *(2) insincere gratitude*
    - *(3) the highest prize in any competition*
    - *(4) the lowest in rank*
7. A nine day's wonder
    - [✓ *(1) an event which creates a sensation for a time, but is soon forgotten*]
    - *(2) a spectacular event never to be forgotten*
    - *(3) a daydream that lasts for a while*
    - *(4) an occasion that draws many people*
8. He has the green eye
    - *(1) he is proud of his achievements*
    - *(2) he has poor judgement*
    - *(3) he is not making sense*
    - *(4) he is jealous with envy*
9. With flying colours
    - *(1) to decorate a place well*
    - *(2) to make someone very happy*
    - [✓ *(3) to succeed brilliantly*]
    - *(4) to go on a romantic holiday*
10. To breathe one's last
    - *(1) to finish one's job*
    - [✓ *(2) to die*]
    - *(3) in conclusion*
    - *(4) to try the last time*

Challenge 5

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To give the cold shoulder
   - (1) to support unwillingly
   - (2) to help out when needed
   - (3) to rebuff or treat with indifference
   - (4) to tease someone

2. To give someone plenty of rope
   - (1) to help someone when he is in trouble
   - (2) to give a person plenty of freedom to do as he pleases
   - (3) to discourage someone so that he loses confidence
   - (4) to overload someone with work

3. To keep a person at arm's length
   - (1) to compete with another person on equal grounds
   - (2) to promote someone to a high position
   - (3) to refuse to be on familiar terms with someone
   - (4) to be on intimate terms with someone

4. To make a point of something
   - (1) to create an issue out of something trivial
   - (2) to make an issue less important
   - (3) to attach special importance to doing something
   - (4) to give an introduction

5. In Davy Jones' locker
   - (1) in a secret compartment; hidden well
   - (2) drowned, at the bottom of the sea
   - (3) taken away without consent
   - (4) at the back of one's mind

6. Not to know a B from a bull's foot
   - (1) to be ignorant of even the simplest things
   - (2) to be kept unaware of the entire problem
   - (3) to deliberately forget something
   - (4) to do badly in one's studies

7. A bone of contention
   - (1) something that is strongly desired
   - (2) a cause for disagreement
   - (3) a memory that refuses to be erased
   - (4) something to be laughed at

8. A thorn in the flesh
   - (1) something to grieve about
   - (2) a minor setback
   - (3) a motivational force
   - (4) a person or thing which annoys

9. To feather one's nest
   - (1) to arrange for a marriage
   - (2) to build one's career
   - (3) to provide for the future
   - (4) to buy a new house

0. A bad egg
   - (1) a person who is up to no good
   - (2) a poor performance
   - (3) a bad worker
   - (4) a spoil sport

Challenge 6

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. A skeleton in the cupboard
   - (1) a ghostly incident
   - (2) a weird person
   - (3) a dreadful secret that must be kept within the family
   - (4) something that has not been used for a long time

2. To darken one's door
   - (1) to pay a visit to one's house
   - (2) to harass someone at his place
   - (3) to make empty promises
   - (4) to mourn for the death of someone

3. To kiss the dust
   - (1) to wait for something that will never happen
   - (2) to have nothing to do
   - (3) to be defeated in battle, to be slain
   - (4) to clean up thoroughly

4. To sail under false colours
   - (1) to daydream and be unrealistic
   - (2) to attempt to deceive
   - (3) to do nothing with one's life
   - (4) to be mistaken that something has been achieved

5. Under one's nose
   - (1) too strong a smell
   - (2) in a poor state of health
   - (3) under one's observation
   - (4) where one cannot see properly

6. To put one's foot down
   - (1) to relax for a while
   - (2) to put a stop to
   - (3) to be angry with someone
   - (4) to order someone to do something

7. To pour oil on troubled waters
   - (1) to aggravate a situation
   - (2) to sow discord between two persons
   - (3) to get out of a difficult situation
   - (4) to make peace

8. His heart is in his boots
   - (1) he is a brave man
   - (2) he is a coward
   - (3) he is a determined person
   - (4) he loves to work

9. To bring the house down
   - (1) to cause rapturous applause
   - (2) to create great disturbance
   - (3) to lose everything
   - (4) to destroy everything

10. To have a bee in one's bonnet
   - (1) to have a nagging thought
   - (2) to be quarrelsome; to pick fights
   - (3) to hold fantastic notions, to be cranky
   - (4) to cause trouble for oneself

Challenge 7

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. The heel of Achilles
   (1) a strong point
   (2) the rough side
   (3) a weak spot
   (4) the downtrodden
2. To be in Queer Street
   (1) to be in an embarrassing situation
   (2) to be in a state of fantasy
   (3) to be confused about something
   (4) to dress in a bizarre way
3. Rough and tumble
   (1) in a disorderly manner
   (2) a noisy crowd
   (3) a pile of unwashed clothes
   (4) a rude remark
4. He has seen better days
   (1) he is a man with rich life experiences
   (2) he was once prosperous
   (3) he used to be a courageous man
   (4) the past is always better
5. In the arms of Morpheus
   (1) being drugged
   (2) in great danger
   (3) succumbed to greed
   (4) asleep
6. He is a cat's paw
   (1) an evil person who pretends to be friendly
   (2) a soft-spoken person
   (3) a trustworthy friend
   (4) someone used as a tool to do something dangerous
7. Go to the devil
   (1) be off
   (2) committed a sin
   (3) be dead
   (4) join the underworld
8. The darkest hour is nearest the dawn
   (1) relief is just around the corner when things appear at their bleakest
   (2) it is dangerous to go out late at night
   (3) the underdog can emerge the winner
   (4) insincerity will be revealed eventually
9. Tell it to the Horse Marines
   (1) an effort that should be recognised
   (2) a joyous occasion to be announced
   (3) an incredible story
   (4) a secret that should be buried forever
10. Odds and ends
   (1) the rough times
   (2) remnants
   (3) the rare parts or pieces
   (4) a gambling game

Challenge 8

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Halcyon days
   (1) a romantic period
   (2) a dull period
   (3) those heroic days
   (4) a time of peace and happiness
2. See which way the cat jumps
   (1) follow the leader
   (2) sit on the fence, see how things are likely to turn out before deciding on a course of action
   (3) watch a problem unfold without lending a helping hand
   (4) trying to imitate someone's mannerisms
3. Fire away
   (1) start a battle
   (2) begin, say what you want to say
   (3) start a quarrel
   (4) dismiss someone off
4. Hobson's choice
   (1) no alternative, take what you are offered or none at all
   (2) the best option
   (3) too many choices, do not know which one to take up
   (4) pick an option that nobody will take up
5. To burn the candle at both ends
   (1) to make a situation worse than before
   (2) to expand energy in two directions at the same time
   (3) to increase your speed in doing something
   (4) to have an extra-marital affair
6. To pay the piper
   (1) to go on a long vacation
   (2) to bribe someone
   (3) to pay the expense
   (4) to reward someone who doesn't deserve it
7. Hostages to fortune
   (1) one's wife and children
   (2) to have a lot of liabilities
   (3) to commit crimes in order to gain wealth
   (4) one's wife and children
8. To cut a dash
   (1) to run very fast
   (2) to set up a new business
   (3) to make an impression
   (4) to be seriously injured
9. To feel one's pulse
   (1) to be extremely happy
   (2) to become very sick
   (3) to try to fit into a new environment
   (4) to try to find out one's views or intentions
10. To cut the Gordian knot
   (1) to forget the past
   (2) to solve a difficult problem by adopting bold measures
   (3) to live life in a totally different place
   (4) to sever ties with someone

Challenge 9

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. At the end of his tether
   - *(1) unable to proceed any further*
   - *(2) [illegible]*
   - *(3) lost all material possessions*
   - *(4) end of one's worries*
2. A dare-devil
   - *(1) a scheming person*
   - *(2) a mischievous person who likes to play pranks*
   - *(3) a person who is reckless and fearless*
   - *(4) a lazy person*
3. The coast is clear
   - *(1) the danger has passed*
   - *(2) the noise is over*
   - *(3) the place has been cleaned up*
   - *(4) the dispute has been solved*
4. To give the devil his due
   - *(1) to give a person credit for his good qualities, however worthless he may be*
   - *(2) to teach a person a lesson*
   - *(3) to reveal a person's evil intentions*
   - *(4) to return money back to a person*
5. To carry one off his feet
   - *(1) to migrate to another country*
   - *(2) to rush for time*
   - *(3) to be completely mesmerised*
   - *(4) to force oneself to do something*
6. To run dead heat
   - *(1) to stop operating suddenly*
   - *(2) a race in which the contestants come in together*
   - *(3) to stir interest in something boring*
   - *(4) to force someone to continue work when one is tired*
7. To plough the sands
   - *(1) to labour uselessly*
   - *(2) to have an overload of work*
   - *(3) to go to the beach*
   - *(4) to find something effortlessly*
8. Not up to the mark
   - *(1) feeling blue*
   - *(2) the time is not ready yet*
   - *(3) still hungry*
   - *(4) not meeting up to the required standard*
9. To get one's back up
   - *(1) to wake one up*
   - *(2) to regain confidence*
   - *(3) to make one angry*
   - *(4) to take revenge*
10. To turn the tables
    - *(1) to prepare for a meal*
    - *(2) to reverse the conditions*
    - *(3) to switch to a new job or responsibility*
    - *(4) to sabotage someone*

Challenge 10

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To steal a march on
   - *(1) to substitute*
   - *(2) to do something quietly*
   - *(3) to wake somebody up*
   - *(4) to go ahead of, beforehand*
2. To see red
   - *(1) to be alert of danger*
   - *(2) to be mad with anger*
   - *(3) getting married*
   - *(4) to be very happy*
3. To take a person in hand
   - *(1) to get married to someone*
   - *(2) to trick someone*
   - *(3) to correct one's faults, to discipline*
   - *(4) to manipulate someone*
4. In the long run
   - *(1) eventually*
   - *(2) annually*
   - *(3) slowly*
   - *(4) occasionally*
5. A Jezebel
   - *(1) an attractive lady*
   - *(2) a kind-hearted woman*
   - *(3) a witch*
   - *(4) a wicked, bold or vicious woman*
6. Behind one's back
   - *(1) one's troubles or worries*
   - *(2) without one's knowledge*
   - *(3) a supportive spouse*
   - *(4) to put the past behind*
7. Barmecide's feast
   - *(1) something unbelievably good before something bad happens*
   - *(2) imaginary benefits*
   - *(3) food fit for a king*
   - *(4) ill-gotten material wealth*
8. To break the back of anything
   - *(1) a careless person who doesn't do things properly*
   - *(2) to perform the most difficult part of it*
   - *(3) an unlucky period in one's life*
   - *(4) to resort to despicable means to achieve something*
9. To assume airs
   - *(1) to fly regularly*
   - *(2) to believe something that is impossible*
   - *(3) to say lies in a convincing manner*
   - *(4) to affect superiority*
10. Elysian happiness
    - *(1) imaginary joy*
    - *(2) a state of perfect bliss*
    - *(3) happiness that is short-lived*
    - *(4) joy shared by everyone*

Challenge 11

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. The bread winner
   - *(1) one who always emerges as champion in all races*
   - *(2) one who provides the means of livelihood for himself and his family*
   - *(3) one who is thrifty and rarely spends*
   - *(4) one who earns very little*

2. A feather in one's cap
   - *(1) a person who focuses too much attention on appearances*
   - *(2) an honour*
   - *(3) a humiliating incident*
   - *(4) a person who is particular about cleanliness*

3. To make both ends meet
   - *(1) to keep the expenses within the income*
   - *(2) to try to fix an appointment between two parties*
   - *(3) to do an impossible task*
   - *(4) to try to please all parties*

4. To hit below the belt
   - *(1) to perform badly in a competition*
   - *(2) to make things worse*
   - *(3) to become very poor*
   - *(4) to act unfairly in a contest*

5. To take up the gauntlet
   - *(1) to occupy one's time with hobbies*
   - *(2) to accept the challenge*
   - *(3) to unearth one's unhappy past*
   - *(4) to avoid a confrontation*

6. A big bug
   - *(1) an important person*
   - *(2) an irritating person who refuses to go away*
   - *(3) a loved one*
   - *(4) an evil person to be avoided at all costs*

7. To throw dust in one's eyes
   - *(1) to try to deceive someone*
   - *(2) to ignore someone*
   - *(3) to make someone disillusioned*
   - *(4) to laugh at someone*

8. Up to date
   - *(1) before a certain time*
   - *(2) likes attending social events*
   - *(3) recent, modern*
   - *(4) recall a particular incident*

9. To live like cats and dogs
   - *(1) to live in extreme poverty*
   - *(2) to stay together harmoniously*
   - *(3) to have poor hygiene standards*
   - *(4) to be always fighting and quarrelling*

10. To make a clean breast of something
    - *(1) to tidy things up*
    - *(2) to inform someone of the latest developments*
    - *(3) to make a full confession*
    - *(4) to start somewhere new*

Challenge 12

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To make bricks without straw
   - *(1) to be extremely capable*
   - *(2) to be unable to get hold of something*
   - *(3) to perform an easy task*
   - *(4) to attempt to do something without proper materials or due preparation*

2. To keep the ball rolling
   - *(1) to make things worse*
   - *(2) to keep things going, to keep up a conversation*
   - *(3) to increase the speed of something*
   - *(4) to continue having fun*

3. A good Samaritan
   - *(1) someone who gives sympathy and help to those in need*
   - *(2) a hardworking person*
   - *(3) a person good at telling lies*
   - *(4) a capable person*

4. To break the ice
   - *(1) to attempt something new*
   - *(2) to sow discord between two parties*
   - *(3) to raise the temperature of the room*
   - *(4) to be the first person to begin talking*

5. Red-tape
   - *(1) a compilation of humorous jokes*
   - *(2) a grand ceremony*
   - *(3) official approval and formality to go through*
   - *(4) loud music*

6. A month of Sundays
   - *(1) vacations*
   - *(2) a disruptive period*
   - *(3) an unsuitable time*
   - *(4) an indefinitely long period of time*

7. To beard the lion in his den
   - *(1) to embarrass someone in public*
   - *(2) to strip someone of his authority*
   - *(3) to resist openly one who is generally feared*
   - *(4) to outwit someone*

8. To knit the brow
   - *(1) to make up for a special occasion*
   - *(2) to be delighted*
   - *(3) to frown*
   - *(4) to work hard*

9. To hold out the olive branch
   - *(1) to provide security*
   - *(2) to ask for peace*
   - *(3) to make a marriage proposal*
   - *(4) to strike war with someone*

10. To draw a red herring
    - *(1) to stop someone from reaching his goal by despicable means*
    - *(2) to finally reach one's goal after many obstacles*
    - *(3) to boast about one's heroic deeds*
    - *(4) to turn attention away from the real issue.*

Challenge 13

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To take the chair
   - *(1) to be disrespectful*
   - *(2) to usurp one's authority*
   - *(3) to preside at a meeting*
   - *(4) to have a short break*
2. To throw some light upon
   - *(1) to try one's luck in fame*
   - *(2) to explain*
   - *(3) to create a romantic mood*
   - *(4) to liven up a serious situation*
3. To bring up the rear
   - *(1) to be the last in line*
   - *(2) to resort to the last tactic*
   - *(3) to end the whole thing*
   - *(4) to drag up the past*
4. Hard lines
   - *(1) difficult words*
   - *(2) to be in an extremely unenviable position*
   - *(3) one's worries and problems*
   - *(4) to drag up the past*
5. To show the white feather
   - *(1) to make peace*
   - *(2) to give the very best of*
   - *(3) to show signs of cowardice*
   - *(4) to praise someone for his efforts*
6. To play the gallery
   - *(1) to pretend to be rich when one is not*
   - *(2) to endeavour to gain cheap popularity*
   - *(3) to play the host*
   - *(4) to be passionate about the arts*
7. To receive with open arms
   - *(1) to provide shelter and lodging*
   - *(2) to welcome cordially*
   - *(3) to willingly be cheated*
   - *(4) to agree to engage one's services*
8. To step into dead men's shoes
   - *(1) to come into inheritance, to succeed someone who died*
   - *(2) to pick up the mess left behind*
   - *(3) to engage in something nobody likes to do*
   - *(4) to slip into a state of depression*
9. On the tapis
   - *(1) in a bad mood*
   - *(2) on good terms*
   - *(3) put to one side*
   - *(4) under consideration*
10. To plough a lonely furrow
    - *(1) to hold a view opposed to all your associates*
    - *(2) to work in an undesirable job*
    - *(3) to try to be friends with someone lonesome*
    - *(4) to take time to be alone*

Challenge 14

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To win the day
   - *(1) to be very happy that day*
   - *(2) to be very lucky*
   - *(3) to be victorious*
   - *(4) to have a day off from work*
2. To give a person a wide berth
   - *(1) to keep as faraway from him as possible*
   - *(2) to give a person many opportunities to develop his talent*
   - *(3) to give someone a severe scolding*
   - *(4) to give someone personal space*
3. An admirable Crichton
   - *(1) a charitable man*
   - *(2) a social creature*
   - *(3) a very talented person*
   - *(4) to go through bad times together*
4. To have a bone to pick with someone
   - *(1) to have found a life partner*
   - *(2) to have something to say to someone which might cause a quarrel*
   - *(3) to make fun of someone*
   - *(4) to go through bad times together*
5. To have kissed the blarney stone
   - *(1) to adopt a boring lifestyle*
   - *(2) to be committed to something which turns out futile*
   - *(3) to have a very persuasive tongue*
   - *(4) to do something ridiculous*
6. To have one's heart in a cloud
   - *(1) to be very happy*
   - *(2) to feel lonesome*
   - *(3) to live in dreamland, to have fanciful ideas*
   - *(4) to feel romantic*
7. In for a penny, in for a pound
   - *(1) trying hard to accumulate wealth*
   - *(2) sinking into the temptation of gambling*
   - *(3) since I am to attempt a little, I might as well attempt a lot*
   - *(4) to be charitable*
8. To pick holes in
   - *(1) to make fun of*
   - *(2) to try to save a situation before it gets worse*
   - *(3) to be meticulous in one's work*
   - *(4) to find fault with*
9. A Greek gift
   - *(1) a gift given for no particular reason*
   - *(2) a present that is deemed worthless*
   - *(3) a gift given with some ulterior motive*
   - *(4) a much treasured gift*
10. To bite the dust
    - *(1) to have nothing to do*
    - *(2) to be defeated in battle, to die*
    - *(3) to have to do something that one dislikes*
    - *(4) to endure the hard times*

Challenge 15

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To pull over the coals
   - *(1) to deliberately hide the truth*
   - *(2) to disguise as someone else*
   - *(3) to scold severely, to reprimand*
   - *(4) to emerge from poverty*
2. To smell of the lamp
   - *(1) to stay up late at night for parties*
   - *(2) to be growing old*
   - *(3) to show signs of strenuous preparation for examination, speech*
   - *(4) to show wisdom*
3. To run the gauntlet
   - *(1) to receive blows from all sides, to be criticised*
   - *(2) to take part in a competition*
   - *(3) to work very hard for a period of time*
   - *(4) to escape from truth that hurts*
4. Armed to the teeth
   - *(1) to be extremely busy*
   - *(2) to be sarcastic in one's words*
   - *(3) to be fully equipped with things to fight with*
   - *(4) to pick fights with somebody*
5. At the drop of a hat
   - *(1) to be careless in one's actions*
   - *(2) immediately and without urging*
   - *(3) in case an emergency crops up*
   - *(4) when one's defences are down*
6. Bark up the wrong tree
   - *(1) direct an inquiry or accusation at the wrong person or place*
   - *(2) put efforts in the wrong way*
   - *(3) show interest in the wrong person*
   - *(4) scared for nothing*
7. At sixes and sevens
   - *(1) in confusion*
   - *(2) early in the morning*
   - *(3) very poor in Mathematicss*
   - *(4) to be at loggerheads*
8. Beat about the bush
   - *(1) aggravate the situation*
   - *(2) go around the subject instead of coming directly to point*
   - *(3) try to find something that is not there*
   - *(4) cause a commotion*
9. Cut something to the bone
   - *(1) to find the cause of a problem*
   - *(2) to find out every single detail*
   - *(3) to reduce as much as possible without making a loss*
   - *(4) to blow things out of proportion*
10. Fight tooth and nail
    - *(1) fight without being fully prepared*
    - *(2) quarrel endlessly*
    - *(3) fight with utmost ferocity*
    - *(4) fight for no particular reason*

Challenge 16

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Burn a hole in one's pocket
   - *(1) to sabotage one's position*
   - *(2) to steal someone's money when he is not aware*
   - *(3) to spend all the money one has*
   - *(4) to accidentally hurt oneself*
2. To bundle someone
   - *(1) to kidnap someone*
   - *(2) to send someone off hurriedly*
   - *(3) to hug, embrace someone*
   - *(4) to dismiss someone off*
3. Carrot and stick
   - *(1) the hope of reward and the threat of punishment*
   - *(2) living in poverty*
   - *(3) have to choose either this or that*
   - *(4) two very close friends*
4. Burst at the seams
   - *(1) to be too full or overcrowded*
   - *(2) badly done work*
   - *(3) overflowing with riches*
   - *(4) uncontrolled temper*
5. Carry coals to Newcastle
   - *(1) to be a hardworking person*
   - *(2) to do something unnecessary*
   - *(3) to lead a hard life*
   - *(4) to help a friend in need*
6. Blow the cobwebs away
   - *(1) to forget about the past*
   - *(2) to have a spring cleaning*
   - *(3) to refresh oneself by going outdoors*
   - *(4) to help a friend in need*
7. Break new ground
   - *(1) start somewhere afresh*
   - *(2) deal with a subject for the first time, make a discovery*
   - *(3) move house*
   - *(4) begin a new relationship*
8. Cast a cloud over something
   - *(1) expect poor weather conditions*
   - *(2) cause annoyance or unhappiness to something*
   - *(3) have a pessimistic outlook*
   - *(4) prevent something from happening*
9. Bury one's head in the sand
   - *(1) have a long vacation with no worries*
   - *(2) work extremely hard*
   - *(3) close one's eyes to danger, deliberately ignore something that is obvious*
   - *(4) be depressed*
10. Castles in the air
    - *(1) realistic goals*
    - *(2) fortune that can be attained in long term*
    - *(3) enjoy a blissful time with your loved one*
    - *(4) dreams or hopes that will not come true*

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Challenge 17

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Cast one's net wide
   - *(1) find something that is difficult*
   - *(2) catch someone unaware*
   - *(3) spread one's efforts in all directions*
   - *(4) bribe someone*
2. Bitter pill to swallow
   - *(1) painful memories*
   - *(2) accept a great disappointment or humiliation*
   - *(3) overcome one's weaknesses*
   - *(4) regain one's health*
3. Blank cheque
   - *(1) infinite wealth*
   - *(2) complete freedom to do whatever one considers desirable*
   - *(3) to have unsteady income*
   - *(4) empty promise*
4. Cut and dried
   - *(1) cold and unsympathetic*
   - *(2) fixed and definite*
   - *(3) well-prepared*
   - *(4) in a bad state*
5. Brain child of someone
   - *(1) an idea, project that is someone's original conception*
   - *(2) to have an innocent mind*
   - *(3) to be retarded in one's thinking*
   - *(4) to steal someone's ideas*
6. Clean bill of health
   - *(1) an assurance that one is in good health*
   - *(2) spending a good amount on medical bills*
   - *(3) good quality work*
   - *(4) no money being owed*
7. Chip off the block
   - *(1) a person who is slipshod in his work*
   - *(2) a person who behaves like his father or resembles him*
   - *(3) a person who is unable to change his bad habits*
   - *(4) a person who barely resembles his former self*
8. Fish in troubled waters
   - *(1) to feel helpless*
   - *(2) to try to gain advantage out of other people's troubles*
   - *(3) futile effort*
   - *(4) to panic*
9. Clip someone's wings
   - *(1) to get murdered*
   - *(2) to stop partying at night*
   - *(3) to refuse to pay someone what he deserves*
   - *(4) to prevent someone from being as active or powerful as before*
10. Foul one's nest
   - *(1) to damage one's career or fortune unintentionally*
   - *(2) to spoil one's plans*
   - *(3) to have untidy habits*
   - *(4) to bring disgrace to or speak ill of one's own family*

Challenge 18

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Cold comfort
   - *(1) to be sympathetic to someone*
   - *(2) in harsh conditions*
   - *(3) no consolation whatever*
   - *(4) reassurance*
2. Cross one's mind
   - *(1) to remember forever*
   - *(2) to come into one's thoughts*
   - *(3) to try to forget something*
   - *(4) to promise something*
3. Drive someone round the bend
   - *(1) mislead someone*
   - *(2) annoy or irritate someone*
   - *(3) send someone home*
   - *(4) make someone laugh*
4. Cut above something
   - *(1) noticeably better than someone or something*
   - *(2) compete with someone using unfair tactics*
   - *(3) destroy something completely*
   - *(4) make a note of something*
5. Dark horse
   - *(1) an ideal lover*
   - *(2) a person of unknown abilities may spring a surprise*
   - *(3) an unlucky person*
   - *(4) a humble man*
6. Burn one's fingers
   - *(1) to be very poor in cooking*
   - *(2) to suffer the unpleasant results of a foolish action*
   - *(3) to be seriously injured in an accident*
   - *(4) to get into a fight*
7. Cast sheep's eyes at someone
   - *(1) glare at a person angrily*
   - *(2) look amorously at someone*
   - *(3) forced to look at someone*
   - *(4) a quick glance, without paying much attention*
8. Deadwood
   - *(1) bad company*
   - *(2) superfluous material*
   - *(3) lousy work*
   - *(4) a worthless person*
9. Cast pearls before swine
   - *(1) to be charitable to those who are less fortunate*
   - *(2) to waste gifts on those who are unable to appreciate*
   - *(3) to make oneself look pretty*
   - *(4) to tempt someone with riches*
10. Drill something into someone
   - *(1) force someone to learn or understand something by repeating it many times*
   - *(2) encourage someone to work hard*
   - *(3) equip someone with the right skills*
   - *(4) remind someone of something*

Challenge 19

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Drag someone through the mud
(1) help someone to overcome obstacles and be stronger
(2) bring shame or dishonour to someone by making public something bad, unpleasant about him
(3) force someone to do something he dislikes
(4) punish someone physically

2. Bed of roses
(1) a well maintained garden
(2) romantic days
(3) a happy, comfortable state
(4) a good nap

3. Drink in something
(1) celebrate an occasion with a toast
(2) take in rapidly through the senses, enjoy it
(3) find it hard to face something unpleasant
(4) commit suicide

4. Get in through the back door
(1) get something through an unfair advantage
(2) do something secretly
(3) surprise someone
(4) rush for time

5. Drug on the market
(1) something obtained through illegal means
(2) something that has high demand
(3) something which has no demand
(4) something that is impossible to achieve

6. Cool one's heel
(1) to slow one's pace
(2) to pacify someone
(3) to keep someone waiting
(4) to rejuvenate

7. Dyed in the wool
(1) deeply imbued with certain principles from young
(2) hide one's true intentions from someone else
(3) try to change one's outward appearance without success
(4) a temporary phase

8. Feel the pinch
(1) to be nagged at
(2) to be hurt emotionally
(3) to have problems for the lack of money
(4) to be demoralised

9. Find one's feet
(1) to gain independence
(2) to become used to new or strange surroundings
(3) to search for a life partner
(4) to find one's family background

10. Get into a rut
(1) embroiled in a dispute
(2) get into a fixed and dull way of life
(3) lower one's standard of living
(4) get into bad company

Challenge 20

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Find it in one's heart
(1) to feel sympathy for
(2) to be as cruel as to
(3) to reveal one's deepest feelings
(4) to feel sad

2. To have a hollow ring to it
(1) something mystical and enchanting about it
(2) to be committed to something half-heartedly
(3) something seems untrue
(4) seems eerie

3. Get blood out of a stone
(1) to get something from a source which doesn't contain it
(2) to be cruel to someone
(3) to work very diligently
(4) to face a disaster

4. Point the finger at someone
(1) introduce someone to another person
(2) blame someone for a mistake or crime
(3) highlight a point
(4) curse someone

5. Cold fish
(1) a person who takes some time to warm up
(2) a selfish person
(3) a person who lacks humour
(4) a person who is distant and unfeeling

6. Go to the dogs
(1) to go to prison
(2) mentally unstable
(3) to be ruined
(4) in a bad mood

7. Butter wouldn't melt in his mouth
(1) unhappy about something but refuses to say it
(2) acts politely but doesn't really care, insincere
(3) unable to forget the harsh reality
(4) nothing can deter one from his goals

8. Go with a swing
(1) to act in a childish manner
(2) to change moods for no reason
(3) to be enthusiastic about something
(4) an event to proceed easily and successfully

9. Pour out one's heart
(1) to be passionate about something
(2) to be discouraged
(3) to confide one's secrets to someone
(4) to reveal one's evil intentions

10. Play into someone's hand
(1) play or act in a way that gives someone an advantage over another person
(2) gamble together
(3) fall in love with someone
(4) tease each other

Challenge 21

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. **Down at the heels**
   - *(1) to be delayed by an unexpected event*
   - *(2) to beg for forgiveness*
   - *(3) shabbily dressed*
   - *(4) to rush for time*

2. **Half-baked idea**
   - *(1) an idea that has not been properly thought out*
   - *(2) an idea that is not realistic*
   - *(3) an idea shared by few people*
   - *(4) an idea that raises much interest*

3. **Hang by a thread**
   - *(1) to lack emotional support*
   - *(2) to be in a precarious situation*
   - *(3) to be firmly rooted in one's beliefs*
   - *(4) to have serious financial problems*

4. **Gild the lily**
   - *(1) curry favour someone*
   - *(2) try to improve something which is already good enough*
   - *(3) do something in a slipshod manner*
   - *(4) decorate a room*

5. **To have a finger in every pie**
   - *(1) to have an interest in everything that is going on*
   - *(2) to be greedy about food*
   - *(3) to quarrel with whoever comes along*
   - *(4) to make a mess out of everything*

6. **To have an axe to grind**
   - *(1) to keep one's job going*
   - *(2) to allow one's private interest to come in*
   - *(3) to voice one's grievances*
   - *(4) to pick fights*

7. **Get the axe**
   - *(1) to start working*
   - *(2) to kill someone*
   - *(3) save a situation*
   - *(4) to be dismissed from work*

8. **Have one's back to the wall**
   - *(1) to do nothing at all*
   - *(2) to be in a difficult or desperate situation*
   - *(3) to have strong support*
   - *(4) to be unaware of danger*

9. **Pull the strings**
   - *(1) to control the actions of others*
   - *(2) to stop something from continuing*
   - *(3) to improve by a good amount*
   - *(4) to act automatically*

10. **Hot potato**
    - *(1) a bad-tempered person*
    - *(2) passionate about something*
    - *(3) something that causes strong argument and is difficult to settle*
    - *(4) a lazy person*

Challenge 22

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. **In the doldrums**
   - *(1) in a happy state of mind*
   - *(2) in a state of inactivity*
   - *(3) in dreamland*
   - *(4) to be enchanted by music*

2. **On the tip of one's tongue**
   - *(1) almost but not spoken or said*
   - *(2) not to one's liking*
   - *(3) something obvious*
   - *(4) an urgent problem*

3. **In the wind**
   - *(1) soon to happen*
   - *(2) something untrue*
   - *(3) quick to pass*
   - *(4) unable to foresee*

4. **In the teeth of something**
   - *(1) against something, in opposition to something*
   - *(2) in the middle of something*
   - *(3) in danger of*
   - *(4) angry about something*

5. **Jump the gun**
   - *(1) to accuse someone without any grounds*
   - *(2) to commit suicide*
   - *(3) to take action before the proper time, to start before one should*
   - *(4) to make a mistake unintentionally*

6. **Keep on an even keel**
   - *(1) to be wary of the surroundings*
   - *(2) to keep in a calm and untroubled state*
   - *(3) to be consistent in one's performance*
   - *(4) to be fair and just*

7. **Make one's blood freeze**
   - *(1) to kill someone*
   - *(2) to make someone excited*
   - *(3) to make someone cold with fear*
   - *(4) to die*

8. **Keep one's head above the water**
   - *(1) to keep out of trouble*
   - *(2) to remain calm in the midst of chaos*
   - *(3) to earn enough to remain out of debt*
   - *(4) to keep alert*

9. **Lay a finger on someone**
   - *(1) to accuse someone*
   - *(2) to hurt or harm someone*
   - *(3) to select someone for a task*
   - *(4) to get someone's attention without alerting others*

10. **Cut no ice with someone**
    - *(1) to maintain friendly relations with someone*
    - *(2) to have no disputes with someone*
    - *(3) to make no sense to someone*
    - *(4) to have no effect on someone*

Challenge 23

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Let one's hair down
   - *(1) to have an untidy appearance*
   - *(2) to behave in a free and relaxed manner*
   - *(3) to reveal secrets that have been hidden for a long time*
   - *(4) to hide one's true intentions*
2. Like water off a duck's back
   - *(1) difficult to grasp*
   - *(2) something that does not occur frequently*
   - *(3) without effort*
   - *(4) no effect*
3. Make a cat's paw of someone
   - *(1) to use someone as a tool*
   - *(2) to laugh at someone's weakness*
   - *(3) to empower oneself with authority*
   - *(4) to praise someone*
4. Half an eye
   - *(1) a quick look*
   - *(2) to be jealous of someone*
   - *(3) in a sleepy state*
   - *(4) to be ignorant about something*
5. Make a mountain out of a molehill
   - *(1) to find something that is not there*
   - *(2) to exaggerate the seriousness of a problem*
   - *(3) to make do with what one has*
   - *(4) to tell false stories*
6. Off colour
   - *(1) turn pale in fear*
   - *(2) to be furious*
   - *(3) not in good health*
   - *(4) not doing well in life*
7. Make no bones about something
   - *(1) to have no doubt about something*
   - *(2) not able to understand something*
   - *(3) unable to see results in something*
   - *(4) not to raise a big issue out of something*
8. Huff and puff
   - *(1) to act or speak in a threatening way, but which is not effective*
   - *(2) to chase after something that is fruitless*
   - *(3) to be in a poor state of health*
   - *(4) to smoke incessantly*
9. Mark my words
   - *(1) forget what I've said*
   - *(2) you'll see later that I'm right*
   - *(3) remember to follow my instructions*
   - *(4) listen carefully to my speech*
10. Noose round someone's neck
    - *(1) to be at the beck and call of someone else*
    - *(2) a heavy responsibility*
    - *(3) to try to murder someone*
    - *(4) to have one's movements under watch*

Challenge 24

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. On one's bended knees
   - *(1) to be overworked*
   - *(2) to be in a dilemma*
   - *(3) in a very submissive way*
   - *(4) to be punished*
2. On one's high horse
   - *(1) in a very good mood*
   - *(2) to be in a position of high authority*
   - *(3) behaving in an arrogant manner*
   - *(4) to think in the long term*
3. To have a swollen head
   - *(1) to be conceited*
   - *(2) to be foolish and stupid*
   - *(3) to be mentally unstable*
   - *(4) to have a bad headache*
4. On the razor's edge
   - *(1) to do something illegal*
   - *(2) in a critical or dangerous position*
   - *(3) to lead a decadent lifestyle*
   - *(4) to lead a poor life*
5. Not turn a hair
   - *(1) to show no anger*
   - *(2) to show no fear or worry*
   - *(3) in a careless manner*
   - *(4) an unkempt appearance*
6. Off the cuff
   - *(1) off duty from work*
   - *(2) released from prison*
   - *(3) taken off the list*
   - *(4) without planning, unprepared*
7. Lead someone by the nose
   - *(1) to make someone do whatever he wants*
   - *(2) to guide someone who is not familiar with things*
   - *(3) to lure someone to a secret place*
   - *(4) to use the sense of smell*
8. On the blink
   - *(1) machine not working properly*
   - *(2) in danger*
   - *(3) in operation*
   - *(4) about to fall asleep*
9. Play one's card close to one's chest
   - *(1) to be passionate about one's job*
   - *(2) to use underhand method to get something*
   - *(3) to memorise something important*
   - *(4) to be secretive about one's plans*
10. On the cards
    - *(1) blacklisted*
    - *(2) likely*
    - *(3) being invited*
    - *(4) a participant*

Challenge 25

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. To be in hot water
   - *(1) to be having a good time*
   - *(2) to panic*
   - *(3) to be in trouble or difficulty*
   - *(4) to be very busy*
2. To be tied to his mother's apron strings
   - *(1) to be very particular about cleanliness*
   - *(2) to be under the control and influence of his mother*
   - *(3) to have very good relations with his mother*
   - *(4) to love his mother's cooking*
3. A fish out of water
   - *(1) stuck in a dead end*
   - *(2) in an awkward or embarrassing position*
   - *(3) in a panicky state*
   - *(4) very lively*
4. To pay off old scores
   - *(1) to have one's revenge for an offence of long standing*
   - *(2) to repay someone's good deeds*
   - *(3) to return money which one owed previously*
   - *(4) to break off past relations*
5. Parthian shot
   - *(1) an accurate aim at something*
   - *(2) a photograph well taken*
   - *(3) a parting word, a sharp retort at the end of conversation*
   - *(4) deliberate words to make one feel miserable*
6. To go cap in hand
   - *(1) to be well prepared before something important happens*
   - *(2) to beseech in a humble manner*
   - *(3) to act in a graceful manner*
   - *(4) to feel confident*
7. To die in harness
   - *(1) to die before fulfilling one's wishes*
   - *(2) to be totally ashamed of something*
   - *(3) to die an honourable death*
   - *(4) to continue at one's occupation until death*
8. To bring grist to the mill
   - *(1) to equip someone wit the right tools for work*
   - *(2) to bring profitable business or gain*
   - *(3) to familiarise oneself with the work*
   - *(4) to upset one's routine*
9. To eat one's word
   - *(1) to refuse to talk*
   - *(2) to tell lies*
   - *(3) to take back what one has said, to apologise*
   - *(4) to have difficulty speaking*
10. He has no backbone
    - *(1) he has no confidence*
    - *(2) he has no family support*
    - *(3) he has no will of his own*
    - *(4) he is extremely lazy*

Challenge 26

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Put ideas into someone's head
   - *(1) to encourage someone*
   - *(2) [illegible]*
   - *(3) to make someone hallucinate*
   - *(4) to deceive someone*
2. On the mend
   - *(1) available*
   - *(2) about to be repaired*
   - *(3) not on talking terms*
   - *(4) getting better in health or condition*
3. Keep the wolf from the door
   - *(1) to play hard to catch*
   - *(2) to abstain from temptation*
   - *(3) to take precautions against danger*
   - *(4) to keep away hunger or want*
4. Put one's nose to the grindstone
   - *(1) to be meddlesome*
   - *(2) to work hard and long at the same job*
   - *(3) to be unaware of one's surroundings*
   - *(4) to look down on others*
5. Over one's head
   - *(1) too difficult to comprehend*
   - *(2) overwhelmed by emotions*
   - *(3) to be unaware of something*
   - *(4) to miss an opportunity*
6. Leave one's mark on someone
   - *(1) to dirty someone else's premises*
   - *(2) to hurt someone deliberately*
   - *(3) to leave a permanent impression on someone*
   - *(4) to be suspicious of someone*
7. Not to see the wood for the trees
   - *(1) to be unable to make out the essential from the details*
   - *(2) to be unable to see the details because of the essential*
   - *(3) to be lost in the midst of things*
   - *(4) to be unable to distinguish the good from the bad*
8. Nuts and bolts
   - *(1) the practical considerations*
   - *(2) the unnecessary factors*
   - *(3) unsightly tools*
   - *(4) for decorative purposes*
9. Storm in a teacup
   - *(1) a frivolous person*
   - *(2) a wonderful performance*
   - *(3) much excitement about a trivial matter*
   - *(4) a ridiculous joke*
10. Shot in the arm
    - *(1) a fatal weakness that leads to one's downfall*
    - *(2) something that hurts one's feelings*
    - *(3) a bad injury*
    - *(4) something that acts to bring back a happy condition*

Challenge 27

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Put a damper on someone
   - *(1) to comfort someone when he is in need*
   - *(2) to trick someone*
   - *(3) to lessen someone's enthusiasm*
   - *(4) to instil responsibility on someone*
2. Raise one's eyebrows
   - *(1) to show fear*
   - *(2) to show anger*
   - *(3) to show surprise or doubt*
   - *(4) to show jealousy*
3. Pour cold water over something
   - *(1) to make something seem less important*
   - *(2) to find fault with something*
   - *(3) to run away from something problematic*
   - *(4) to make an issue more light-hearted*
4. Rap someone's knuckles
   - *(1) to scold or punish someone*
   - *(2) to be on intimate terms with someone*
   - *(3) to hurt someone deliberately*
   - *(4) to bring attention to someone*
5. Put the cards on the table
   - *(1) to negotiate for a deal*
   - *(2) to follow a routine*
   - *(3) to disclose one's plans or intentions*
   - *(4) to take a break from work*
6. On pins and needles
   - *(1) to be very alert*
   - *(2) worried, nervous*
   - *(3) to feel extreme physical pain*
   - *(4) to be good at dressmaking*
7. Roll out the red carpet
   - *(1) to welcome an important guest with respect and honour*
   - *(2) to set off on an adventure*
   - *(3) to get married*
   - *(4) to retire*
8. Talk above someone's head
   - *(1) show disrespect for someone more senior*
   - *(2) brainwash someone with ideas*
   - *(3) speak in a manner which someone cannot understand*
   - *(4) let someone know of one's intentions*
9. Sticking point
   - *(1) something that is difficult to handle*
   - *(2) the starting point*
   - *(3) the absolute limit beyond which one cannot go on*
   - *(4) a sensitive part of one's past*
10. Pull the plug on something
    - *(1) to prevent something from continuing*
    - *(2) to deliberately spoil plans*
    - *(3) to increase the speed of*
    - *(4) to make plans for something important*

Challenge 28

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Rock the boat
   - *(1) to add variety to one's life*
   - *(2) to make matters worse through differences in opinions*
   - *(3) to disturb someone when he is busy*
   - *(4) to have the last say*
2. Pull wool over someone's eye
   - *(1) to make someone feel uncomfortable*
   - *(2) to deceive someone*
   - *(3) to dream of better days to come*
   - *(4) to make someone feel sleepy*
3. Scratch the surface of something
   - *(1) to bring up the importance of something*
   - *(2) to spoil the importance of something*
   - *(3) to deal too superficially with a subject*
   - *(4) to try to find something without putting in effort*
4. See the red light
   - *(1) in a bad mood*
   - *(2) receive approval of something*
   - *(3) anticipate danger approaching*
   - *(4) see humour in something*
5. Pull the rabbit out of the hat
   - *(1) to reveal someone's secret*
   - *(2) to give a pleasant surprise*
   - *(3) to act strangely*
   - *(4) to produce what seems an impossible result with no effort*
6. See with half an eye
   - *(1) not pay attention*
   - *(2) to be disinterested*
   - *(3) to realise at once*
   - *(4) to look down on*
7. Take the wind out of someone's sails
   - *(1) embarrass someone by forestalling his actions*
   - *(2) be in a position where the wind blows at you*
   - *(3) make someone feel disillusioned*
   - *(4) stop someone from continuing*
8. Set the world on fire
   - *(1) to do something exciting to bring fame and glory*
   - *(2) to destroy everything around us*
   - *(3) to make people around you angry*
   - *(4) to make everybody laugh*
9. Pull the chestnuts out of the fire
   - *(1) to get someone out of a predicament, often at the risk of oneself*
   - *(2) to get prepared for an emergency*
   - *(3) to put a stop to things before they are ready*
   - *(4) to relieve tension*
10. To split hairs
    - *(1) to concern oneself with small unimportant differences*
    - *(2) to disentangle oneself from worries*
    - *(3) to damage relations between parties*
    - *(4) to engage in teamwork*

Challenge 29

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. Take the bull by the horns

(1) to infuriate someone
(2) to try to control someone more superior than oneself
(3) to decide to face a problem
(4) to act in an impulsive manner

2. Under the weather

(1) in a bad mood
(2) not performing well
(3) slightly ill
(4) bad weather

3. To heap coals of fire

(1) to return good for evil
(2) to aggravate a situation
(3) to burden oneself with work
(4) to extend goodwill to others

4. To put one's hand to the plough

(1) to begin a task earnestly
(2) to do things half-heartedly
(3) to engage in something meaningless
(4) to get into a mess

5. To raise Cain

(1) to rebuke severely
(2) to raise alarm over a minor issue
(3) to curry favour someone
(4) to upgrade oneself

6. To see eye to eye

(1) to be hopelessly devoted to each other
(2) to be in complete agreement with the views of another
(3) to keep watch over something
(4) to be confused over which option to pick

7. To play the game

(1) to pretend to be sincere to someone
(2) to participate in a contest
(3) to act fairly and honourably
(4) to have fun

8. Put up the shutters

(1) to close a business at the end of the day
(2) to decorate a place
(3) to take a photograph
(4) to refuse to talk

9. Sweep the board

(1) win all the prizes
(2) curry favour the higher management
(3) hold a lowly position in an organisation
(4) hide something that might cause trouble

10. To give up the ghost

(1) to wake up from a dream
(2) to die, to cease trying
(3) to forget about the past
(4) to sever ties with one's ancestors

Challenge 30

Choose the correct meaning below.

1. In a nutshell

(1) to pack things up neatly
(2) to say in a few words
(3) only a small amount
(4) to hide something in a covert place

2. A wet blanket

(1) a person who discourages others, acts as a damper
(2) a person who is having a fever
(3) a person who cries easily
(4) a person who is always late

3. A Roland for an Oliver

(1) a mistaken identity
(2) an effective retort, revenge
(3) a mismatch of roles
(4) fallen in status

4. To show a clean pair of heels

(1) to start life anew
(2) to run at a great speed
(3) to tidy oneself up
(4) to show a willingness to learn

5. An eye-servant

(1) one who works only under supervision
(2) a conscientious and meticulous worker
(3) a person who tell tales about other workers
(4) a slow worker

6. Attic salt

(1) sarcastic remarks
(2) old memories
(3) refined, subtle wit
(4) sincere praise

7. A triton among the minnows

(1) a person who hardly draws attention to himself
(2) a person who completely dominates over his fellows
(3) a high-flyer
(4) a nuisance

8. To cleanse the Augean

(1) to forget all troubles
(2) to lead a moral life
(3) to effect great improvements in the government
(4) to have spring cleaning

9. To pass the hat around

(1) to show off
(2) to ask for subscription
(3) to share what is good with everyone
(4) to spread rumours

10. To take the cat

(1) to take the first prize, to be the best of the lot
(2) to be greedy
(3) to claim credit over something that is not rightfully yours
(4) to enjoy the fruits of labour

Challenge 1

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. After searching fervently for her ring in the rubbish chute, Jacelyn smelled as stink as (a rat, a cockroach, a polecat).
2. He was as (hilarious, joyful, fluttering) as a fly when he learnt that he had made it to the finals.
3. Jennifer may look as frigid as (an iceberg, glass, water), but she is a friendly girl if you get to know her.
4. Incessant donations from the public were charitable deeds that were as warm as (wool, a blanket, fire) to the underprivileged children.
5. The nervous Andy gave a smile that was as stiff as a (poker, ramrod, iron bar) to the interviewer when questioned about his past working experience.
6. Penelope's skin is as (soft, delicate, rare) as a flower and cannot be exposed to the sun for too long.
7. Mrs Lee is going to make sure that the golden rules she sets for her children will be observed as sacredly as (a shrine, an altar, the Bible).
8. Nobody wants to invest in this franchise – a business deemed as unprofitable as (stones, metal, smoke).
9. It is difficult to predict whether the economic condition will improve when times are as (uncertain, rough, fluctuating) as the weather.
10. To improve the company, the management must welcome feedback that is as (reflective, candid, introspective) as mirrors.

Spelling Similes

11. After having lived alone in the mountains for so many years, it is understandable that the dame can be as g _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as an old maid whenever someone visits her.
12. The naughty children have to be punished for mistreating the animals. They were as unmerciful as the b _ _ _ _ _ _ by scalding their pets with hot water.
13. Despite pleas from her children to keep the puppy, Mrs Tan is as uncompromising as j _ _ _ _ _ .
14. Throughout the night, the security guard has to stay as v _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as the stars and watch out for any suspicious characters lurking around.
15. I don't like books by this author as she writes in a style that is as s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as a fifth wheel and does not get down to the essence of the story.
16. The aroma of curry drifting from the kitchen was as e _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as a riddle; we became ravenous all at once.
17. Madam Soh was as loyal as an a _ _ _ _ _ _ and did not leave her boss in the lurch even when he was declared a bankrupt.
18. Gerald is merely trying to shirk his responsibility here by vehemently asserting that he is as b _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as the snow.

Challenge 2

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Benedict is outraged that his idea has been dismissed as being shallow as (the waters, a pan, a tray).
2. Norman was as (relentless, passive, lucky) as fate in his amorous pursuit for Wendy's affection and he eventually won her heart.
3. The old ladies may be getting on in years, but their fingers are still as nimble as (a thimble, butterflies, quicksilver) when it comes to handicraft.
4. Her tears came down as (overwhelming, uncontrollable, heavy) as the wave upon receiving the bad news.
5. I trust the workmanship of this furniture shop. Their tables are as sturdy as (trunks, mountains, oaks).
6. The unicorn, a figment of our imagination, is a creature that is as (magical, unfathomable, fabulous) as Aladdin's ring and does not exist in the real world.
7. Everyone was deeply moved by the effort of the artistes in their attempt to raise funds for the needy, except for Veronica who was as unfeeling as (ground, walls, rocks).
8. The universe out there is as (lasting, vast, unforeseeable) as eternity. Explorers are still making new discoveries everyday.
9. Despite his old age, Mr Lee can turn as (twisted, horny, promiscuous) as a camel's kneel when seduced by the voluptuous woman.
10. Two years in national service have turned Carl into a physically stronger man. He is now as (brutal, new, tough) as leather.

Spelling Similes

11. Star gazing alone can be as t _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as the summer sea, especially after a hectic day at work.
12. To be able to make the cards stand as upright as a t _ _ _ _ is an insurmountable task to most of us.
13. Try not to carry objects that are as sharp as r _ _ _ _ _ into the premise as you might be mistaken for a prankster.
14. Elaine was chosen to be the spokeswoman for this slimming centre because her figure was as round as a b _ _ _ _ _ and she needed to lose weight.
15. After completing the marathon, the participant felt as thirsty as a s _ _ _ _ _ .
16. The platinum rings worn by the couple signify their union in marriage that is to be as lasting as p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .
17. The cowboy, clad in a leather jacket and jeans, looked as rugged as a r _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ when he posed in front of his ranch.
18. Under the nurse's loving care that was as tender as a s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Ron managed to recover in no time.

Challenge 3

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Her voice was as (flat, deep, monotonous) as the sea. It put people to sleep.
2. This new company is always coming up with trendy products to attract youths. Their inventions have to be as (everlasting, progressive, fast) as time.
3. Their relationship turned as (hackneyed, bitter, putrid) as wormwood after their dispute over who to take over the responsibilities of the manager.
4. Nobody could accept the reality which was as harsh as (the cold winter, a grating wheel, rough seas).
5. The Queen looked as regal as (Cleopatra, Creole, Juno) when she sat at her throne.
6. When we visited Doris in hospital, she looked as pale as (Cicero's tomb, Banquo's ghost, Eve's grave)..
7. Little Harris was as unhappy as (a clown, King Lear, Lady Macbeth) when he did not get the Christmas present he longed for.
8. Mrs Brown stresses that her place has to be kept as clean as a (Scottish wall, French glass, Dutch oven) as she is highly sensitive to dust and dirt.
9. I was worried that her parents would be hostile, but they turned out to be as (pleasant, friendly, warm) as health.
10. To remain as faithful as (the moon, the stars, the sun) to her husband is not easy for this flirtatious woman.

Spelling Similes

11. Although they are close siblings, their characters are as far apart as the **p** ____.
12. Just before the health inspectors came, Mrs Lee made sure that her food stall was as **n** ___ as a new pin.
13. Many farmers have been eyeing this piece of land because it is as **f** ______ as volcanic soil.
14. Helen decides to go to a slimming centre as her tummy has turned as **f** _____ as a sponge and needs firming up.
15. A shy boy by nature, Finn appears as **a** ______ as a cow on ice whenever he meets someone of the opposite sex.
16. With the blaring music on next door, Jessica appeared as deaf as a **d** _______ to the incessant rings of the telephone.
17. The high-life that my sister is leading is a stark contrast to my monotonous routine which is as dull as **d** _________.
18. The prisoners, in their desperate attempt to escape, thought of a plan that is as **a** _______ as the day.

Challenge 4

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. An insolent boy, John can be as rude as (a lion, a bear, a rhinoceros) when he does not get what he wants.
2. I thought she meant what she said, but all her promises turned out to be as false as (fantasy, a mirage, dice).
3. After being drenched in the rain, the puppy's fur looked as (messy, curly, frizzled) as a lawyer's wig.
4. This seminar is not restricted to registered participants. Anybody who is interested may join; they will be as welcome as (a housefly, a chirping sparrow, dew on parched flowers).
5. We can identify with the characters in the play because they are as (close, large, strange) as life.
6. The teacher is exasperated that Tom is getting as lazy as (a ship in the doldrums, a snake, a worm).
7. Nobody knows Christy is carrying a torch for Alex, for it is an amorous affair that is as secret as (thought, pillow talk, an operation).
8. Stop being as (bleak, mournful, deadly) as the grave and do something positive with your life now!
9. The little pigs thought that they had built houses that were as solid as (bricks, lead, cement), but it turned out that they were wrong.
10. A memorial that is as (tall, solid, grand) as a Greek statue was erected to commemorate the brave warriors who perished in the war.

Spelling Similes

11. In the library, everybody is expected to be as silent as **t** ______ as the place has been reserved for study purposes.
12. The voices of the explorers sounded as **h** _____ as drums as they spoke in the cave.
13. The rascals thought that taking up the dare would be as **d** ________ as the forbidden fruit until the police caught them in the act.
14. William has been sent out of the class because he is as talkative as a **m** _____ and loves to disturb his classmates.
15. After being reprimanded by her boss, Miss Tan's face turned as **g** ___ as mud and she was moody for the rest of the day.
16. The policeman was as fleet as a **g** ________ in his relentless pursuit of the criminal and finally apprehended the robber.
17. She came across to me as familiar as an **o** ___ and it finally dawned on me that she was my long-lost relative.
18. The chambermaid, with numerous years of experience in housekeeping, was able to keep the hotel rooms as **i** __________ as an angel.

Challenge 5

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. The old couple was finally reunited after being separated during the war. Since then, their reunion has been as lasting as (the pyramids, the ring, the mountains).
2. This particular dish has been taken out of the menu because customers have complained that it was as (bitter, watery, salty) as brine.
3. Christmas is a festive season of giving and sharing when everybody can be as merry as (bells, spring, holy).
4. Nick has to abstain from seafood because he has skin that is as (delicate, sensitive, tantalising) as a flower and gets rashes easily.
5. Owners of this house have insisted that the windows they install must be as (thick, blue, opaque) as the sky for their privacy needs.
6. Listening to Celtic music at night can be as (soothing, refreshing, cool) as the breath of Spring.
7. The man, in his relentless pursuit of his sweetheart, was as (persistent, pesky, noxious) as a mosquito and finally won the heart of the woman he desired.
8. The little boy looked as shy as (a fawn, a rabbit, a worm), standing by himself at the corner.
9. You must learn from your mistakes. Don't be as foolish as (a donkey, a calf, a sheep) like you used to be.
10. Henry was not his usual quiet self after a couple of drinks, but turned as (taciturn, garrulous, laconic) as a magpie, spilling out beans that he had kept secret all these years.

Spelling Similes

11. We were unable to hear each other because the loud music from the discotheque had made us as deaf as **b** ______.
12. Abhorrent of insects, Cecilia is as afraid as a **g** ___________ whenever she spots a cockroach.
13. It is a joy to breathe in the air every morning when it is as fresh as **d** __ , compared to the stale air-conditioned environment in the office.
14. Just skip one meal in the afternoon and Oliver who is still in the stage of puberty, will turn as **r** ________ as a wolf at dinner time.
15. The artist's works were not appreciated. Most people felt they were as **d** ___ as lead.
16. Having been out of employment for the past six months, Benedict has turned as **l** ________ as an old bachelor and lacks the motivation to find a new job.
17. Everybody was in a mood that was as grey as a **b** _________ on learning that our teams had lost.
18. Organising this seminar for participants is an immense project that is as costly as an **e** _______, so details have to be carefully planned out.

Challenge 6

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Having been brought up by parents who are as liberal as (the moon, weeds, the sun), Daisy is receptive to unconventional ideas.
2. Even after the discouraging remarks made by her competitors, Nancy remained undeterred in her course of action and was as (firm, devout, unyielding) as faith in her stand.
3. Nobody could understand exactly what the director wanted until Dylan hit it as (strongly, right, hard) as nails.
4. The passion between them may be as hot as (blaze, fire, flame) now, but it will sizzle out one day.
5. After being declared a bankrupt and diagnosed with cancer, the once wealthy tycoon is now as (rotten, smelly, undesirable) as dirt.
6. The audience is reminded to be as punctual as (a cock, an owl, springtime) so that the show can start on time.
7. Being young and ambitious, Sam works day and night and can still be as (inexhaustible, strong, unfathomable) as the deep sea.
8. The girls who are singing Christmas carols are as youthful as (the month of April, the month of June, the month of May).
9. Keith has been observing a rigorous exercise regime and is now as (bullish, muscular, fit) as a fiddle.
10. It is such a waste to throw away all these clothes. They look as new as (bank notes, the day, gold).

Spelling Similes

11. The nation was as dismal as a **h** _____ when the citizens learnt that their much respected Minister had passed away.
12. In his attempt to scale the corporate ladder, Alex is prepared to be as **r** _______ as the sea.
13. Travelling by first class is the most comfortable as the seats are as spacious as the **e** ______.
14. We strive to clean up the old house so that it will become as **s** _____ as an onion for the new year.
15. Trying to be as **i** ________ as the stars, the King has been taking all kinds of strange potions to prolong his life.
16. Even though both dresses have similar patterns, this dress is relatively cheaper than that one because the material used is as coarse as **f** ______.
17. Be careful not to throw the javelin when somebody is on the field because this can be as **d** _________ as machine guns.
18. When she first arrived in an unfamiliar environment, she was as **f** _________ as an alarm clock to her schoolmates, but she has since changed to someone more affable.

Challenge 7

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. The firemen were as (efficient, swift, sudden) as a flash in putting out the fire and rescuing the trapped victims from the ablazed building.
2. The anonymous letter sent to us contained messages that were as (malicious, evil, haunting) as Satan.
3. It is difficult to talk sense into Mr Ang because he can be as (prudish, tenacious, querulous) as a bulldog.
4. Don't be fooled by that lovely pot of plant. The leaves are as (venomous, unpredictable, incapacitated) as a snake.
5. The newborn baby is so adorable! She has cheeks that are as (rosy, soft, chubby) as a cherub.
6. Barbara is as (hungry, desirous, greedy) as a pig because she always take more food than she can eat at the buffet dinners.
7. This antique watch has been around for so long that it must be as old as (the skeleton, the sea, the hills).
8. Gary is able to go far in his life despite his handicap as he does not believe that everything in life is as (transient, fixed, smooth) as fate.
9. He claims to be a good drinker but he was as drunk as (a duck, a fish, a cat) after just a few bottles of beer.
10. We tried to find out who would be under the retrenchment list, but the human resource manager was as (fishy, deep, mum) as an oyster about it.

Spelling Similes

11. "Don't be afraid of the thunder, you are as safe as a **t** ________ under its shell," Mrs Lee coaxed her son.
12. I don't think I'll be as **s** __________ as a goat to walk through these slippery rocks without falling.
13. The teacher's voice turned as **h** ______ as a raven after reprimanding the naughty children.
14. The field has been as **b** ______ as winter rain for several years and no crops can be grown on it.
15. Nobody would have thought that beneath the friendly demeanour, Angie can be as **c** ______ as a fox.
16. When asked if she wanted to go on a movie date, Doris displayed much interest and was as keen as **m** _______.
17. Now that all clinical tools are in the van, we can provide medical equipment that is as mobile as **h** ________.
18. The naughty child stretched the catapult to be as taut as a **f** ______ **s** ______ before releasing the metal piece.

Challenge 8

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. The hyperactive child could not sit still after a while and appeared as (turbulent, restless, tumultuous) as the sea to her teacher.
2. As human beings with emotions, we cannot pretend to be as (senseless, lifeless, empty) as stones.
3. Brenda's face turned as sulky as (a child, the river, a bear) when she learnt that her wedding had to be cancelled at the last minute.
4. After days without food, the refugees were as (voracious, fortuitous, officious) as camels and resorted to pilfering from the natives.
5. Don't assume that this problem can be easily solved. It is not as (perilous, simple, slippery) as falling off a log.
6. It will be amusing to see a hedgehog without its spikes. It will look as (naked, plain, bald) as an egg.
7. All human beings have to undergo pain and suffering in life. It is as (scary, inevitable, relentless) as death.
8. You can be assured that Melvin will always mean what he says. He is as credulous as (a dog, the sun, a child).
9. Despite being rich and successful, Justin was never a brag and is always as (modest, amiable, detached) as a primrose.
10. Every morning, the cock's shrills which are as sound as (the fire alarm, a bell, a whistle), always wake me up punctually.

Spelling Similes

11. I want to choose a dress that fits my body snugly instead of one that is as **s** _________ as an old shoe.
12. Cornered by the lawyer's verbal attacks, Bryan was as witless as a **j** ______ and could not respond promptly .
13. After years of eking a living by the sea, the sailor returned home as rugged as a **r** __________.
14. This piece of dough is as elastic as a **c** ___________ and can be moulded into different objects.
15. Francis was selected to take part in the debate as he is as **e** ________ as Cicero.
16. It is not advisable to go on a mountain climbing trip in such horrendous weather because it can be as **t** ___________ as the memory to the hikers.
17. This marketplace may be small but the products and services here can be as **v** ________ as the weather - it is a one-stop shopping place for both the young and old.
18. The chicken wings were marinated in soya sauce and roasted over the fireplace until they turned to a colour that is as brown as a **h** ________ .

Challenge 9

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Nobody knew what happened to the crew members of the sunken ship. Their whereabouts were as (vapid, nefarious, mysterious) as an echo.
2. Nobody was excited about the promotion this time round because it was no longer as rare as (a blue rose, the moon, the dinosaur).
3. The patient could not be discharged because his condition was as (insurmountable, intractable, unstable) as the wind and he had to be kept under observation.
4. Her thoughts were as (deep, wide, blue) as the sea. Nobody could understand them.
5. A mother's love for her children can be as (immense, tender, fleeting) as a bud. She can shower them with boundless care and attention.
6. Unable to control her anger anymore, Mrs Ong spoke in a tone that was as (violent, heated, undesirable) as steam.
7. Madam Tan's face turned as (warm, cold, wan) as moonlight when she saw the dead body of her husband lying in the mortuary.
8. I can always trust her because she gives opinions that are as honest as (a mirror, the grave, reflection).
9. The basketball player is easy to spot in a crowd because he is as tall as (skyscraper, the crane, a steeple).
10. This stall has been given the thumbs up for being as (assorted, tidy, colourful) as a candy shop and for maintaining a high standard of hygiene.

Spelling Similes

11. We were as **h** _____ as midnight about our plans for a pool party, for we did not want our discipline mistress to ruin the occasion.
12. Nobody wanted to act in this role because the character was as ugly as a **s** ________.
13. It is not advisable to be as **l** __ as cut string in your studies when you know the examinations are approaching.
14. Unaware of her rights, the foreign maid was as **r** _________ as the wind under her employer's control.
15. The countryside would be an ideal place to retire because life there would be as **p** _____ as a duck pond.
16. The artist painted the sea in a colour that is as blue as **f** _____-__-____ on his easel.
17. A forthright person by nature, Florence can be as blunt as a **h** _____ in her words, but those who know her well knows she means no harm.
18. Nobody knows who raided the tombstone. To us, it is a puzzle that is as mysterious as a **s** _____.

Challenge 10

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Perry has always dreamt of marrying a woman as virtuous as (holy truth, the Bible, a nun).
2. The chef was generous in his fillings - the dumplings were as full as (cotton to a pillow, trees in a forest, an egg is of meat) and we had our mouths stuffed with them.
3. Only Miss Lee, the human resource officer, is as knowing as (the moon, the stars, the sun) about who will be retrenched.
4. Mrs Tam, whose handwriting is very neat, can write sentences as straight as (an arrow, a pole, a ruler) on the chalk board.
5. Dressed in a resplendent gown, the Princess looked as (sweet, pink, delicate) as a rose at the party.
6. Used to leading an extravagant lifestyle, Larry could not accept having a job that paid as lowly as (a beggar, a slave, a vagrant).
7. After working for the whole day, we were as (hoggish, hungry, tawdry) as hunters and gobbled down our dinner.
8. This German shepherd may look ferocious, but the gigantic animal is in fact as (docile, vindictive, harmless) as a babe.
9. One has to be as cautious as (a Dutch, a Scot, a Finnish) when signing legal documents which may contain hidden clauses that puts one in a disadvantageous situation.
10. Jane and Julie are not only similar in looks, but even their characters are as (different, congruent, alike) as two peas in a pod.

Spelling Similes

11. Since the tragic incident, Joan has changed her ways and is no longer as wilful as a **m** ___.
12. The sick girl refused to take her medicine, insisting that it would taste as bitter as **g** ___.
13. This antique vase has been passed down for many generations and is as old as **M** _________.
14. Nobody dared to defy the King's orders, except Prince William who was as **a** _________ as the day.
15. Cactuses are one of the few plants that are able to survive in a climate as **a** ___ as the sands of Sahara.
16. Diana looked out of place at the party; with everyone dressed so formally, she was as plain as a **p** ________ in jeans and T-shirt.
17. The stretch of field in front of us was as yellow as **s** ______ with plentiful daffodils swaying in the wind.
18. Britney was extremely offended when her new colleague made a remark about her dressing, commenting that it was as **s** ____ as the wave.

Challenge 11

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Mrs Cheung has been accused of being as cruel as (Cicero, Uriah Heep, media) for abandoning her own child.
2. Clearing the customs at the airport can be as (agile, troublesome, efficient) as a monkey, now that more stringent checks have been enforced.
3. Right after signing the divoice papers to end his twenty-five year unpleasant marriage, Mr Toh felt as free as a (kite, plane, bird) and went for a drink immediately.
4. Having been trapped in the castle for so many years, it is no wonder that the Princess's skin is as fair as (Eve in paradise, a judge, ivory).
5. As a premature baby, Cindy was born as (midget, thin, little) as Tom Thumb and required more attention and nutrients than other children.
6. This pot of plant is as artificial as (carpet, clockwork, hailstones) and will never be mistaken for the real thing.
7. I cannot see myself in ten years' time. It seems as (distant, bleak, far-fetched) as the horizon.
8. After realising she has been cheated, she turned as (stony, cold, rough) as marble to the salesman.
9. At the wedding, everyone was impressed with the bride who looked as stately as (a Queen, a palace, a diamond).
10. Germaine turned as bashful as (a dwarf, a schoolgirl, a clown) whenever we teased her about her new romance.

Spelling Similes

11. The boss warned the manager not to disturb him with matters that were as t ______ as a parrot's prattle.
12. Carl could not make up his mind, but remained as wavering as H _____ in his thoughts.
13. Jolin was dressed as h _______ as the witch of Endor at the Halloween party.
14. Mark was a notorious thief who was as s ________ as ice, eluding the police's detection by leaving behind misleading clues.
15. It is the guard's duty to be as watchful as a s ________ and not to let trespassers into the premises.
16. The freshly-plucked bouquet of violets was placed in a matching vase that was as purple as the h ______.
17. What you have just highlighted is something that is as broad as H _____'_ e ______ - you need to narrow it down in order to focus clearly.
18. Everybody thought that Henry was as brave as A ________ to save the drowning child despite the fact that he could not swim.

Challenge 12

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. During the days of our courtship, we were as (romantic, happy, drag) as the day is long and the world seemed to revolve around us only.
2. There used to be misunderstandings between us, but everything is as (shiny, shimmering, clear) as crystal now that the issues have been resolved.
3. The final stage in pottery would be to put a coat of varnish on the clay piece so that it can look as (glistening, luxuriant, glossy) as the finest silk.
4. Frieda has been reprimanded by her boss so many times that it is now as (common, unusual, countless) as the stars to her.
5. The student was as daring as (a lion's heart, brass, nickel) to put a toad on the discipline master's head!
6. Despite having been kept in the musty library for several decades, this book still looked as good as (gold, silver, heaven).
7. Even after drinking a whole bottle of wine, Sunny is still as sober as a (judge, lawyer, senator).
8. We only realised that Mr Chou was as hairless as (a ball, a globe, an egg) when his wig fell off in the middle of a dance!
9. The news that the World Trade Centre had been bombed by terrorists was as (scary, horrifying, grim) as hell to all Americans.
10. The cutlery were polished till they were as (shiny, clean, smooth) as ice before the guests arrived.

Spelling Similes

11. The backpacker returns home after a year, looking as w ______ - b _____ as a fisherman's oar.
12. William can be as d ___ as a brush when it comes to expressing his feelings for his loved one.
13. Nobody is as s ______ as a post, but you need to put in hard work and perseverance in order to get the results you want to achieve.
14. Don't be conned by the advertisements promoting free tour packages. They may be as d _________ as the mirage in a desert.
15. Be careful when you cross the border. The guards on duty are as d ________ as machine guns and may shoot if you carry any undesirable objects.
16. Attempting to get out of this convoluted maze is a task that is as difficult as a G ____ p _____ to me.
17. Becky's face turned as red as a b ________ at the party after someone whispered in her ear that she had worn her dress the wrong way.
18. Years of running the shop in the same management style has resulted in the owner being as l _________ as a granite rock and refusing to seek new ways to improve his business.

Challenge 13

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. After a business trip overseas, Laura returned home as (fatigue, rundown, dead) as wood and could hardly say a word.
2. In his younger days, Glenn was as daring as (the lion, brass, copper) and would go for all kinds of death-defying sports.
3. The labourers were instructed to hoard the storeroom with sacks of rice that were as plentiful as (the sand upon the ocean shore, coconuts along the coast, clouds in the sky).
4. After freshening up and donning a new pair of suit, he looked as handsome as (a bear, a peacock, paint).
5. It was as (disappointing, soggy, damaging) as wet gunpowder when we learnt that we were not chosen to represent our country.
6. Once Rahman went on stage, his head turned as (confused, empty, befuddled) as an idiot's mind and he could not remember his lines for the play.
7. Having undergone rigorous training, the police dogs were as swift as (lions, cats, deers) in hunting down the criminals.
8. My parents who are as superstitious as (talismans, taoists, sailors) strongly believe that one should never dress in black at weddings.
9. Everyone enjoys the company of Jamie who is as cheery as (a cherry, the flower, a sunbeam) and brightens up our days.
10. Days of sun-tanning at the beach has turned Kelly's skin tone to be as brown as (a berry, a monkey, chocolate).

Spelling Similes

11. After sniffing glue, Kenneth's mind turned as b ______ as wings and he felt he was floating in the air.
12. They may be twins but their characters are as c ________ as light and darkness.
13. Without a microphone, the speaker sounded as f ____ as the hum of distant bees to his audience.
14. The poor girl could not afford to buy the dress on display as it was as expensive as g ____.
15. The orthodontist advises me to wear braces because I have a set of teeth that is as crooked as a c ________.
16. It is wiser to bring along a compass for our trekking trip as the mountainous route is as t ________ as the desert and we might get lost in it.
17. To heavy smokers like Larry, trying to quit the bad habit is as u ______________ as chewing gum.
18. It is remarkable to see Gary turn as c ______________ as a dog just before the examinations, for he has been adopting a "couldn't-care-less" attitude all this while.

Challenge 14

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

i. Snow White laid as (peaceful, dormant, restless) as in a glass case enwreathed with blossoming flowers.
2. Why can't you understand this theory? To me, it is as (comprehensible, significant, plain) as the nose on your face.
3. We admire Douglas' patience to remain as cool as (a tomato, a cucumber, an ice cube) when confronted with unreasonable customers.
4. We managed to secure the business deal because the presentation that was delivered was as (brilliant, baffling, convincing) as the multiplication tables to the clients.
5. Babies are as (delicate, natural, needful) as the sun and require our tender loving care and concern.
6. No one believed George when he changed overnight from a snob to someone as nice as (nine pence, an old dame, six pounds).
7. "The music from the discotheque next door is as loud as (an alarm clock, a church bell, thunder)," complained the exasperated neighbour.
8. The mixture has to be as (thick, level, watery) as a pond before baking so that the pudding will turn out smooth.
9. Chewing gum used to be as (monotonous, routine, lawful) as eating before the government banned the consumption.
10. The pirates were as lawless as (the leopard, thunder, the stormy wind), killing everyone on the ship including women and children.

Spelling Similes

11. A contagious disease like this may be as i ________ as the air, but it can be deadly when it strikes.
12. It is amazing how George can remain as cool as a c _______ amidst the chaos.
13. Being as p __________ as young love, Romeo and Juliet were undeterred in their romance despite their families' disapprovals.
14. Whenever Betty loses to her best friend in tennis, her face will turn as s ___ as lime because she cannot accept defeat.
15. Having been declared a bankrupt, Thomas's aspiration to tour Europe is now as r _____ as a dream.
16. Nobody wants to invite the loathsome guy to the party for he has poor social etiquette that makes him as o ________ as an alligator.
17. How I wish I could turn back the clock and relive my childhood when I could be as b _____ as May.
18. A frequent gambler, Mohan was as game as a f ______ c ___ when invited to go onboard a casino yacht to try her luck.

Challenge 15

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. It came to me as quick as (a thought, lightning, time) that I ought to help the old lady, without considering the consequences involved.
2. To heavy smokers like Larry, trying to quit the bad habit is as (adhesive, unconquerable, resilient) as chewing gum.
3. Clara thought she was dreaming when she heard the news that she had been accepted for the scholarship, but the news was as (real, bright, wondrous) as the stars.
4. Mr Ong cannot forgive his daughter for being a single mother as he believes that it is as (shameful, unforgivable, evil) as sin.
5. It is amazing that Joan is able to weather through all these problems and still emerge as (tough, heavy, unpredictable) as leather.
6. The model posed as still as (a statue, the night, a blank sheet) so that the artist could draw her at one sitting.
7. The dancers were dressed as red as (blood, cherries, poppies) in conjunction with the festive mood of the Chinese New Year.
8. You need to be careful when eating those fruits. They are as (red, seedy, fruity) as raspberries.
9. No other ingredients has been added into the honey. It is as (white, pure, chilly) as winter snow.
10. It will be difficult to discipline the notorious boy, he can never be someone who is as (manipulative, artificial, obedient) as a puppet.

Spelling Similes

11. We don't have to fret about the lack of food as it is as plentiful as **b** ____________.
12. It has been a daunting task for the police, trying to catch the robber who is as **e** ______ as quicksilver.
13. The team members were as **j** ________ as old sleigh bells when they received the trophy.
14. When Neville was having the bout of fever, his body was as weak as a **r** ___ and he had to sleep all day.
15. Three sleepless nights cramming for examinations have caused Kim to be as tired as a **t** ________.
16. Without coffee, I was unable to remain as alert as a **c** ______ while studying into the wee hours of the night.
17. Stuck with burdensome household chores, Mrs Tan turned as quarrelsome as the **w** _____ and vented her frustrations on her poor husband.
18. The questions set in the game show have been criticised by viewers to be as brainless as a **c** _________ and lack philosophical depth.

Challenge 16

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. It can be a daunting task to spot the insects within the lush greenery as they are as small as (germs, dust, atoms).
2. I notice that Robbie has been as (gruesome, erect, solitary) as a tombstone at the party and is refusing to interact with the other guests.
3. Baking comes to her as natural as (death, birth, life). It can be said the skill is in her bones.
4. To fit the bill of Santa Claus, you have to be as (jolly, immaculate, ditzy) as a shoe brush and bring cheer to the children.
5. She does not harbour any hopes of marrying the Prince. To her, it is as illusive as (a dream, a chameleon, an oasis).
6. The breakfast we just had was as hearty as (an oak, a tree, a bear) - a smorgasbord of cereals, porridge, omelette and noodles.
7. Don't try to lift the luggage by yourself. They are as (cumbersome, heavy, thick) as lead and may cause a strain to your back.
8. Up to the very last moment, we were as hopeful as (the break of day, the sun, the child) for a miracle.
9. You must hold the brush as (strong, steadfast, steady) as a rock in order to paint the miniature figurine.
10. Rest assured that this hideout is as safe as (the bank, the church, the nest) and nobody will be able to find us.

Spelling Similes

11. Being rich and influential, everyone thought Billy would be as **u** _____________ as a star, but he is just a deferential young man.
12. Do not believe whatever the teacher says to be as true as the **g** _____. Rather, you ought to question when in doubt.
13. Instead of panicking, one must remain as still as a **l** __ when a shark approaches.
14. The leftovers from last night's party created an unbearable smell that is as stinky as **c** ______.
15. The people were proved wrong when they believed that the Titanic was as **i** ___________ as eternity.
16. The house was turned upside down and looked as mad as a **h** _____ after a night of revelry by the party-goers.
17. The lazy bug was as **c** __________ as a yawn - all the campers decided to retire early for the day after someone mentioned that it was getting late.
18. Being under a spell cast by the witch, the poor Prince was as **p** ________ as an infant and could do nothing to save the Princess.

Challenge 17

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. The old man's body appeared as (weather-beaten, frail, soft) as flowers against the strong wind.
2. Mr Tan is as generous as (a king, a tycoon, a lord) in giving out tips whenever he dines in fine restaurants.
3. The room was as spotless as (paper, snow, cotton) after spring-cleaning. Not a trace of dust could be detected.
4. Nicky was behaving as suspicious as (a rat, an owl, a cat) when the policeman walked past.
5. The naughty boy was as restless as (the sea, weather, a monkey) and refused to sit down to do his work.
6. Nothing you do can make her angry because she is as (peaceful, sad, mild) as a dove.
7. Just before the festive period, the workers were as (noisy, busy, dangerous) as bees as they rushed for production in the factory.
8. The capricious Jill is as (stormy, fickle, calm) as the weather because she changes her mind so often.
9. Although the sisters are twins, they are as different as (water and oil, stone and paper, chalk and cheese) in their temperaments.
10. Several students were sleeping in the class because the subject being taught was as dry as (a bone, a biscuit, a leaf).

Spelling Similes

11. So many villagers had succumbed to the epidemic such that the village now looked as **d** ______ as a tomb.
12. Just before her examinations, Ruby was so flustered that she found her hands were as **c** _____ as death.
13. The mother was as cross as two **s** _____ after realising what her son had done.
14. On her wedding day, the bride was feeling joyous and her face was as **g** _______ as the sun.
15. Just before the performance, Susie was as **n** ______ as a mouse and was worried that she might forget her lines on stage.
16. After being spurned by Jay, Charles went into a state of despondency and came across to us as someone who was as **d** _______ as a wet hen.
17. In an exultant mood, Jessie was chattering non-stop and sounded as chirpy as a **c** ______ over the telephone.
18. After years of rigorous training in the sports school, the gymnast has developed a body that is as **l** ____ as a panther's.

Challenge 18

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Alex stood as (graceful, proud, bewildered) as a peacock as he received the trophy from the Guest-of-Honour.
2. Conmen tend to target young children who are as innocent as (swans, lambs, flowers) and can be easily deceived.
3. Before it was furnished, the house was as (strong, bare, hard) as a stone, but now it can fetch a higher price with the new amenities.
4. The old lady is now as (evil, wary, nasty) as a fox after having been cheated by confidence tricksters numerous times.
5. Nobody could believe what had happened as it seemed as unreal as (a dream, a myth, a story).
6. Despite drinking so much alcohol, Adrain is still as sober as (an owl, a judge, a parrot).
7. The plot in this mystery movie must be as enticing as (a joke, a riddle, a drama) as your eye are fixated on the screen.
8. The tent fell as (rocky, flat, smooth) as a pancake after the heavy storm and had to be erected again.
9. After years of hard labour, the old man's health starts to fail and his bones become (brittle, sharp, fragile) as glass.
10. Despite meeting unreasonable customers everyday, Jamie can still remain as (cool, careless, breath-less) as the wind.

Spelling Similes

11. Months of hard work paid off when Kumar performed as **b** ________ as the stars in the final year examinations.
12. Even though my child has grown up, she can still be as playful as a **k** _____ when she is in a light-hearted mood.
13. To be a nun, you must be as **c** _____ as a lily and not succumb to worldly temptations of any sort.
14. The bread looks as **s** ____ as old beer after being left on the table for so long.
15. Eunice made sure she was dressed as pretty as a **p** ______ before taking glamour shots of herself at the studio.
16. The gossipmonger is identified as someone who loves to spread tales about others and has a mouth that is as foul as **s** ______.
17. It would be as **d** ________ as a gathering storm to Morris if he is unable to clinch this deal. This means that he might have to face bankruptcy.
18. Celebrating Christmas alone in a foreign town can be as **d** _____ as an Asian steppe, especially with the bleak weather.

Challenge 19

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Look at that adorable boy! His cheeks are dimpled and look as (pale, rosy, pretty) as a bride's.
2. The sagacious old man tends to give good advice because he is as (kind, wise, clever) as an owl.
3. Despite her old age, Madam Tan likes to dress as vain as (the Queen, the moon, a peacock) wherever she goes.
4. The mermaid was left in a desolate place that was as (voiceless, lonely, weird) as the tomb under the witch's spell.
5. Everyone was charmed by the host who was as gracious as (a duchess, a swan, a dove) at the housewarming party.
6. Despite encountering one obstacle after another, Lance remained as (strong, positive, resilient) as a Scotsman.
7. ·This contact list is as (meaningful, useful, hardworking) as a cow to our family. If any emergency crops up, we can refer to the telephone numbers at once.
8. After a game of rugby, Joe returned home soaked in mud and appeared as (dirty, ragged, victorious) as Lazarus.

. Even after all these years, his undying love for Carole remained as (ultimate, constant, strong) as the sun.

0. Helen's behaviour became as confusing as (mud, a whirlpool, a rollercoaster) upon learning about the bad news.

pelling Similes

1. Everybody likes to seek advice from the soothsayer because he is as wise as S______.
2. Nobody would have thought the King would be as merciless as O_______ to execute all his subjects.
3. Due to an allergy, the condition of Michelle's face turned as bad as b_____ and she had to consult a dermatologist in the end.
4. The farmers' hard work finally paid off. This year's harvest was as b_________ as nature.
5. It was as dark as a d______ in the old cinema, but many people still like to go there as it is a favourite haunt for couples.
6. To escape unnoticed, the burglar has to tread very slowly and be as n_________ as a shadow in his movements.
7. "Possessions are as t________ as lightning, for we are merely leading an ephemeral existence in this universe," the monk remarked.
8. Food and shelter - these are the basic needs for a man's survival that are as u________ as light.

Challenge 20

Select or fill in the correct words in the brackets or spaces to complete each sentence.

Selection Similes

1. Spending the night in the haunted house was not as exciting as we had imagined. We were as (sleepless, troubled, alert) as owls.
2. Her daily routine of reading to her children at bedtime soon grew to sound as (ridiculous, artificial, distant) as clockwork over time.
3. Her mind turned as blank as (a piece of paper, an empty bottle, a drawing block) during the examinations and she could not answer a single question.
4. When her boyfriend is present, Lynn acts as gentle as (falling dew, a swan, a lamb) but metamorphoses into a brat when he is not around.
5. There is always something to learn as knowledge is as (wide, deep, boundless) as the ocean.
6. When we learnt that our best friend had succumbed to cancer, our spirits were as (cheerless, heavy, dark) as the grave.
7. You must be careful of Ricky. He may seem a friendly guy, but he can be as deceitful as (a fox, a devil, a snake) if you step on his toes.
8. Hilary is always getting into trouble because her words are often as (merciless, ridiculous, thoughtless) as a lark's.
9. This company always gives learning opportunities to interns who have a positive attitude and are as humble as (donkeys, worms, fishes).
10. It is difficult to make Gilbert change his mind because he can be as (resolute, stubborn, indecisive) as a mule once he has made his decision.

Spelling Similes

11. Alan felt as jealous as a S_______ upon learning that his girlfriend was seeing her ex-boyfriend.
12. Mr Toh doesn't have a mind of his own. He is as s________ as a jellyfish.
13. After a few drinks, Kelly turned as dizzy as a g____ and spilled out the beans of her secret affair with Addy.
14. The clown makes all the children laugh because he acts as c_____ as a bear in his thick outfit.
15. Miss Tan dresses as g____ as a butterfly whenever she goes for a social function.
16. The police was unable to nap the rapist as the victim could only provide a description of the suspect that was as vague as f_______.
17. It has been said that men who have tongues that are as g___ as glass cannot be trusted. They may have ulterior motives.
18. The physical training set by our instructor was as v_______ as fire and we were exhausted after just half an hour.

Challenge 1

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. The bumpy road was levelled (level) by the workers after the earthquake so that pedestrians can use it safely again.
2. The actor's captivating (captive) performance drew applause from everyone.
3. Going to church on Sundays have become a Habitual (habit) thing for our family now.
4. The police were able to capture the bungling (bungle) burglar because of the clues he left behind.
5. This matter can be resolved Peacefully (peace) without any need for violence.
6. Frugality (frugal) is a virtue that should be practised since young.
7. The world of cyberspace is a bordered (border) one where people from around the globe can communicate almost instantaneously with one another.
8. The remarkable results she has achieved is attributable (attribute) to her hard work.
9. The food fair over the weekend was a gastronomic (gastronomy) delight to many gourmet lovers.
10. After years of studying in the boarding school, Elizabeth has turned into a prim and bookish (book) girl.
11. The scientist invented a new contrivance (contrive) for milking cows so that milk can be produced in a more efficient way.
12. You should not expect instant gratification (gratify) when you help others.
13. It is extremely uncomfortable to run in the blistering (blister) heat. You may get a heat stroke if you are not careful.
14. Suffering from visual Impairment (impair) since young, Jane sees double images of everything.
15. The bloody Bloodcurdling (blood) murder committed by the terrorists shocked the whole world.
16. This is not your sole contribution alone but a collaborative (collaborate) effort between the various departments.
17. The sheer magnetism (magnet) of her concert performance was something that newcomers in the entertainment industry could not match.
18. Despite having reached a ______ (marriage) age, Jacqueline is not in the least fretful because she has no lack of suitors.

Marriagable

Challenge 2

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. We decide to use a more analytical (analysis) approach to handle this problem.
2. The Lovelorn (love) Princess decided to end her life because she was rejected by thePrince she adored.
3. I hate to stay in this high rise apartment because of the constant loud and blaring (blare) noises from the traffic below.
4. It is difficult to trace the whereabouts (where) of the syndicate members as they operate in an elusive manner.
5. Although Irene has creative talents, she does not want to have a career in advertising because she has heard that there is much bitchiness (bitch) in the industry.
6. Fred is attracted by Fiona's beguiling (beguile) smile at the grand ball.
7. Joanne decides not to have children as she considers them to be a hindrance (hinder) to her career.
8. Awestruck (awe) fans crowd near the stage the moment the pop star appears.
9. The surgeon has to perform a surgery to clear a blockage (block) of the patient's artery.
10. The victim gave a strangulated (strangle) growl before collapsing to the ground.
11. Several of Dr Ong's patients have made Allegations (allege) of his professional misconduct.
12. Francis was not promoted because of his incapacity (capable) to take on management roles.
13. The impact of this oil spillage on the environment is Imponderable (ponder). Thousands of species of wildlife have perished as a result.
14. Being a melancholic girl, Doris always has a dark, brooding (brood) presence about her.
15. The firemen were not perturbed (perturb) during the crisis and managed to save all the people who were trapped in the burning building.
16. After being marooned on the deserted island for three years, the crew member was relieved at the thought that he could return to civilization (civil) once again.
17. To pamper herself after a hard day's work, Beatrice decides to Luxuriate (luxury) in a hot spa.
18. The sentence was carried out in Pursuance (pursue) of the court's verdict that the defendant should face two years of imprisonment and be fined $10,000.

Challenge 3

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Mrs Lee turned hysterical (hysteria) when she received news that her husband had met with a car accident.
2. This charitable organisation has been sending humanitarian (human) aid to areas affected by droughts.
3. We could hear the bitternass (bitter) in the captain's voice over the telephone as he broke the news that his team had lost the final match.
4. Pliancy (pliant) can be a positive or negative trait - a willingness to accept change and new ideas or be easily influenced by others.
5. The electricity was cut off during the storm and we had a black out (black) for several hours.
6. It is hazardous (hazard) to smoke inside a coal mine as an explosion may occur.
7. Helen refused to walk in the park, for she once had a harrowing (harrow) experience there as an eight-year-old girl.
8. When divers are deep underwater, they should be careful not to return to atmospheric~~al~~ (atmosphere) pressure too quickly.
9. All races should live harmoniously (harmony) together so that the country can enjoy peace and stability.
10. "What a blooming (bloom) disgrace it is to tell everybody that!" she exclaimed.
11. Mrs Tan is looking so harried (harry) because she is trying to run as many errands as possible during her lunch break.
12. Mr Poon has been called away for reservist (reserve) ever since the war started.
13. The presentation was hastily (haste) prepared and was not informative at all.
14. Kelly has been visiting the doctor for her glandular (gland) problems because she always sweats profusely.
15. It is ~~guilt~~ gutless (gut) of her to think of suicide instead of facing up to her problems.
16. The civil war is the latest outbreak in centuries of fratricidal (fratricide) strife in the area.
17. Claiming to be a master of Palmistry (palm), the man at the temple predicted my future by reading the lines on my palms.
18. Engaging five staff to grovel over the needs of just one superstar is a trifle farcical (farce) to me.

Challenge 4

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Annoyed by Elvin's presence, Cindy gruffly (gruff) ordered him out of the house and warned him not to return.
2. The farmers are celebrating because they have made a profit from the bountiful (bounty) harvest this season.
3. The beggar was seen clad in an old grubby (grub) shirt scavenging for food in the back alley.
4. Graphology (graph) is useful when companies want to know the profiles of the workers they are going to employ.
5. It is mandatory (mandate) to pay off your debts within a certain period of time, otherwise you may be declared a bankrupt.
6. It is Joan's wish to get married and lead a blissful (bliss) life with her husband and children.
7. Dylan was grimacing from the gnawing (gnaw) pain in his leg when the anaesthetic wore off.
8. The guests were eating heartily (heart) before the uninvited man turned up.
9. I still have much to learn because I only have the most rudimentary (rudiment) knowledge of Chemistry.
10. Jeff is always coming up with gnomic (gnome) utterances that do not make any sense.
11. The film star was dressed in a glamorous (glam) gown at the film festival.
12. The weather has been gloriously (glory) sunny this week; we should have a picnic by the beach.
13. The glittering (glitter) skyline at night is a beautiful sight for tourists and locals alike.
14. The candidate delivered a nationalistic (nation) speech before the election.
15. Despite the setbacks he faced, he remained a man of remarkable buoyancy (buoyant).
16. The factory was unable to meet the tight production deadline when the system became inoperable (operate) as a result of power failure.
17. No favouritism (favour) is practised in this company - all staff work their way up based on meritocracy.
18. To get positive coverage in the papers, the politician was always seen fawning (fawn) over the media personnel.

Challenge 5

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Nobody could understand the gibberish (gibber) Oliver was uttering when he was drunk.
2. It was apparent from the frostiness (frost) of his reply that he didn't want to come with us.
3. Nobody makes an effort to write diaries after a while because everyone is too busy and they find it bothering (bother). Bothersome
4. "Beat the mixture until it is frothy (froth) and light," the chef said during the cooking programme.
5. The Runway (run) at the airport has to be lit at night so that planes can land safely.
6. The game was played in a friendly way, with frolic some (frolic) behaviour from both teams.
7. The cost of buying a private apartment is so ________ (prohibit) that we have decided to take up an HDB flat instead. Prohibitive
8. The rich man enjoys having flirtacious (flirt) relationships with different women everyday.
9. "Look at that grand piano over there. It is simply awsome (awe)!" the musician exclaimed.
10. Everybody seemed to be impressed by the bombastic (bombard) speech the Minister made that evening.
11. The lawyer said he was unable to help us because our case fell outside his area of Speciatizali (special).
12. The huge, antique vase was placed in a centeralized (centre) position to give the room a more balanced look.
13. After suffering three sleepless nights, Nathan turned up with bloodshot (blood) eyes for class.
14. Since the beginning of the year, over a hundred medium-sized companies have been forced into ________ (receive). Recievership.
15. This acid is highly Corrosive (corrode), so be careful when you handle with it.
16. The receptionist was offered the job based on her strong telephone skills and her ________ (sound) voice.
17. Mr Lim was extremely thankful for the forbearance (forbear) his company has shown in recruiting an ex-convict like him.
18. In order to obtain a licence to sell liquor, the pub has to pass through levels of bureacracy (bureau) before the application is approved.

Challenge 6

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. To lead a more Purposful (purpose) life, Gerald listed a number of targets he hopes to achieve for the upcoming year.
2. Patricia is always extremely defferential (defer) to people bearing higher authority.
3. Harry has been cynical (cynic) about love since his marriage ended last year.
4. It can be so peaceful to sit in the quietude (quiet) of the countryside.
5. The rebellious Selina left the house in defiance (defy) of her mother's instructions.
6. The manager has been questioned by the police for his suspected involvement in bribery (bribe).
7. It is doubtless (doubt) that the show has ended. Everyone is coming out of the theatre.
8. Madam Tan decides to buy this useful sofa-set because it is convertible (convert) to a bed when you pull it out.
9. Despite hurting so many people, he still does not find himself blameworthy (blame) of his actions.
10. It is deducible (deduce) from her tone that she is angry, even though I don't understand what she is saying.
11. The long summer days of Idleness (idle) at the countryside were extremely relaxing to the stressful students.
12. Although Mr Heng is a boorish (boor) man, he treats his wife and children very well.
13. The high and mighty Sandy tends to speak egotistically (ego) to people of a lower social class than her.
14. Madam Ong has earned herself the fearsome (fear) reputation as a disciplinarian among the students in school.
15. Disposable (dispose) paper plates are used for the convenience of those who fear washing up.
16. Always displaying exuberance and hospitality, the guest relation officer in this hotel epitomises (epitome) excellent customer service.
17. The playwright was clever in inserting a lot of epigrammatic (epigram) humour in the characters' dialogue to make the theatrical production more interesting.
18. The cast was so enthralling (enthral) in their roles that the audience gave a standing ovation after the performance.

Challenge 7

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Eunice seems to have a Photographic (photo) memory and remembers even events that took place long ago.
2. "Apply three drop lets (drop) of this eye solution to cure your eyesore problem," the optician advises the patient.
3. Instead of improving, Madam Wong's condition got Progressively (progress) worse after the surgery.
4. My grandmother keeps a whole collection of oriental Earthenware (earth) in her kitchen.
5. Norman loves to exaggerate. He has just painted an unrealistic (unreal) account of what happened.
6. In her nervousness, she spoke edgily (edge) at the interview and as a result, she lost the opportunity to work in that company.
7. Morality (moral) issues are discussed in school so that children can have a better understanding of righteous behaviour.
8. The elusive (elude) woman refused to divulge her movements during the time of the robbery.
9. Please pardon Melissa's grumpiness (grump). It is probably due to a lack of sleep.
10. Although Mr Lee had a bitter quarrel with his wife, he is now seeking a reconciliation (reconcile).
11. A worrying trend for insurance companies has been a rise in the number of fraudulent (fraud) claims.
12. An exhaustive (exhaust) report on this matter has to be submitted to the authorities.
13. Instead of showing appreciation of concern, Harry has been accused of being meddlesome (meddle) by his ungrateful friends.
14. The young man worked hard in emulation (emulate) of his famous father.
15. George has a fiery (fire) temper today, so you better watch out!
16. Any changes that you make must fit into the existing framework (frame) so that the rest of us can follow up.
17. Not all salesmen are conniving (connive); there are genuine promoters who provide first-rate goods and services as well.
18. For the patient who is recovering from amnesia, he only has fragmentory (fragment) memories of his past.

Challenge 8

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Karen was reprimanded by her boss for doing work in a slipshod (slip) manner.
2. The Opera Ball is an extravaganza (extravagant) that has been held annually for the past four decades.
3. Nobody could bear to reprimand Susan because she was apologetic and wore a penitent (penitence) smile.
4. Being a sports enthusiast (enthuse), Mark can be seen exercising everyday after work.
5. There was deadly rivalry (rival) between the three companies because they were fighting for the same business deal.
6. I can hear the loud, braying (bray) noise made by the donkeys even from far.
7. There is a growing sense of nationalistic fervour (fervent) in the state during times of war.
8. This can of food should not be eaten as its expiry (expire) date is over, otherwise you may get food poisoning.
9. The soccer player faced a penalty (penal) because he committed a foul against another player.
10. Although furniture bought from this store is relatively cheaper, we have to assemble the fixtures (fix) ourselves.
11. Repeated management capitulation (capitulate) on wage increases have made the company's financial situation worse.
12. You will see those faraway penguins more clearly through these telescopic (telescope) lens.
13. The familiarity (familiar) of the surroundings brought back memories for the amnesia-struck patient.
14. After seeing the doctor, you have to go to the dispensary (dispense) to get your medicine.
15. Don't bother to wait for Danny any longer. He is habitually (habit) late.
16. Such a Provocative (provoke) subject would stir up much interest and discussion if it was brought up at the forum.
17. We need to educate the ignorant villagers so that they will not stigmatise (stigma) victims who suffer from diseases like AIDS.
18. The technician would be putting his life in danger if he returns to the steelworks. (steel) without donning protective clothing.

Challenge 9

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Keith's bumptiousness (bumptious) landed him several promising job offers as interviewers were impressed with his self-confidence.
2. Christopher's inaptitude (inapt) with numbers has made him a poor accountant; he should make a career switch soon.
3. Her view is merely idealistic (ideal) and is not applicable in the real world.
4. Carlson is still hesitant (hesitate) about whether to go abroad for his studies or remain in Singapore.
5. This product has high marketable (market) value and sales have been good so far.
6. Very often, the villainous (villain) character in the play is the most challenging one; every actor longs to land in such a role.
7. "You shouldn't treat such a serious subject with frivolity (frivolous)," Mr Fong said sternly to his son.
8. The imperial guards have to bow to their royal highness (high) as a gesture of respect.
9. I can't light up the cigarette because the lighter is no longer Ignitable (ignite).
10. Jeremy decides not to send the parcel to his son in England after learning that the overseas Postage (post) cost has risen.
11. When Adrian raised the proposal at the meeting, it was greeted with sceptism scepticism (sceptic).
12. Gerald indignantly shot a Rebuttal (rebut) to the accusation that he was a cheat.
13. Susan abstains from fatty foods as she believes they have a high calorific (calorie) value.
14. A few Incisive (incise) comments from our teacher brought a new perspective to our project.
15. Karen's moodiness (mood) has affected her work performance and she even received a warning from her boss.
16. One look at the drug addict, the narcotics officer could tell that he had a drug overdose from the state of stupefection (stupefy) he was in.
17. After numerous break-ups and reconciliations, their tempestuous. (tempest) marriage finally ended in divorce.
18. The company is in Stoppage. (stop) because of the disagreements between the disgruntled workers and the employer.

Challenge 10

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. The opposition party's candidate suffered annihilation (annihilate) at the polls and had to step down after the election.
2. Having a spa retreat over the weekend is an Indulgence (indulge) to the overworked Janice.
3. Agnes is popular with her friends because she is a great conversationalist (converse) at social gatherings.
4. Love may not be quantifiable (quantity), but everybody needs to be loved and cherished.
5. The popular actress finds it Intrusive (intrude) that her private life is now subject to the scrutiny of the paparazzi.
6. At the board meeting, the issue of retrenchment was discussed Lengthily (length).
7. The boys have to face disciplinary (discipline) action for vandalising school property.
8. The artist paints beautiful Landscapes (land) on his canvas and sells the paintings to earn a living.
9. Trees are dying in industrial areas where acid rain is most Prevalent (prevail).
10. The Leafage (leaf) in the forest was of a lush green tone that creates a soothing effect for the stressful urbanites.
11. The doctor advised the patient with cancer to go back to the hospital if there was a recurrence (recur) of symptoms.
12. Stephanie has to put coins in the machine at the ____________ (laundry) before her clothes can be washed.
13. Journalism (journal) is a career that Florence has always wanted to venture into since young.
14. Your password has to be validated (valid) before you are allowed to enter this website.
15. Debbie is over Possesive (possess) of her new boyfriend. She even monitors his movements everyday.
16. The athlete was disqualified from taking part in the race as he was suspected of consuming a banned stimulant (stimulate).
17. Viewers have been following this drama serial through more than a hundred episodes because of the riveting (rivet) storyline and the excellent cast.
18. Even the disciplinarian was unable to control the Riotous (riot) behaviour of the juvenile delinquents.

Challenge 11

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Saying prayers before we have our dinner is something ritualistic (ritual) that we have observed over the years.
2. The couple resisted the media's blandishment (blandish) to reveal their wedding date.
3. The hard knock into the tree was so instantaneous (instant) that the driver in the car had no time to react.
4. It was wrong of them to call their child a simpleton (simple) just because the boy was slow in his actions.
5. ✓ The machine won't work properly without a __________ (lubricate). Lubricant
6. ✓ Kumar is a pessimistic fellow who holds a fatalistic (fatal) view of life.
7. ✓ It is maddening (mad) to be stuck in a traffic jam when you are rushing for time.
8. ✓ You should send the computer for servicing while it is still Reparable (repair).
9. ✓ After the effects of the drug wore off, Ronald was able to give an account of what had happened earlier with Lucidity (lucid).
10. ✓ This whole stretch of old shophouses are on Preservation (preserve) under the government's instructions.
11. ✓ Charlie Chaplin's mimicry (mimic) of the working class was brilliant. No one could match his performance up till today.
12. ✓ We would like to thank all our customers for their Patronage (patron) in the past.
13. ✓ Lack of rain in this area has caused serious Shortage (short) in the food supply.
14. ✓ Having gone through so many life experiences, the old dame now has an air of World liness. (world) about her.
15. ✓ Hundreds of friends and relatives have turned up for the late Mr Lim's memorial (memory) service.
16. ✓ Despite the rain, we still have to make sure that all the spadework (spade) is done before the event can commence.
17. ✓ Through observation, the art teacher noticed that one of his students displayed a singular (single) talent in painting.
18. The employee was dismissed from the company for his impertinent shoddiness (shoddy) in work.

Challenge 12

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. This drug has a __________ (sedate) effect and should not be taken when driving.
2. The sense of fulfilment that Eunice gets from being a volunteer is __________ (measure).
3. In __________ (remember) of those who died in the war, a memorial was built so that people can pay tribute to them.
4. "This is just the preliminary stage of our planning. The proposal is still __________ (modify)," the manager said.
5. The thought of all that delicious food at the buffet made me __________ (saliva).
6. Some people believe that dinosaurs were destroyed because of the effects of a giant __________ (meteor).
7. It will be easy to learn this dance - just follow the __________ (rhythm) music and move your body along.
8. This film is based on the __________ (polar) of the two characters and their different paths in life.
9. The polar bear's thick fur provides good __________ (insulate) against the arctic cold.
10. All our hopes were __________ (ship) by the bad news. We were inconsolable after that.
11. Throughout that difficult period of illness and bereavement, she showed commendable __________ (fortify).
12. In humans and other mammals, the __________ (respire) system includes the lungs, the diaphragm and the windpipe.
13. In order to pay off her debts, Wendy has to resort to __________ (moon) after her regular job.
14. Mr Brown thanked his staff for the __________ (forbear) that they had shown by sticking on with him during the company's difficult times.
15. This company provides __________ (install) and repair services for the electrical goods they sell.
16. In the political uprising, several people were arrested by the government for the __________ (sedition) speeches they made in public.
17. You have to hurry if you want to see these __________ (sculpture) pieces, for they will only be on display at the exhibition until next week.
18. The bottle of wine and my compass were my __________ (salvage) when I got lost in the snowy mountains.

Challenge 13

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. You had better fix the problem now when it is still __________ (rectify) rather than wait.
2. Although these old bus tickets serve no purpose now, they are kept in __________ (retain) for the sake of remembrance.
3. The __________ (pharmacy) industry is a good area to invest in because in recent years, it has seen tremendous potential in growth.
4. Alex is a __________ (manipulate) man who gets his ways by making use of people.
5. As from March, __________ (pay) of the bills can be made over the Internet instead of at the counter.
6. Having taken part in numerous international competitions, Colin is a __________ (season) tennis player.
7. Despite being sentenced to death, the child rapist remains __________ (remorse) of his deplorable acts.
8. Stacy expressed __________ (revere) for her teacher by reciting a poem about the latter on Teacher's Day.
9. Thousands of pieces of __________ (patch) were sewn together to create the Fabric of the Nation.
10. Stacy's albums are selling like hot cakes; her __________ (melody) voice has struck the hearts of many fans.
11. The __________ (profit) flashes a beaming smile after he learnt how much money he has made from his investments.
12. This is a wonderful spot to take __________ (picture) shots of the old city.
13. The __________ (mechanic) for the collection of taxes needs revision since it is no longer relevant.
14. The __________ (rebel) boys refuse to mend their ways and continue to commit theft.
15. We are all disgusted by Wayne and his __________ (pretend) ways.
16. The __________ (sage) old man was often sought by the villagers because he could offer sound advice and judgement to them.
17. This restaurant is famous for dishing up local __________ (special) at affordable prices.
18. When attending social functions like wedding dinners, __________ (time) has to be observed as a mark of respect to the host.

Challenge 14

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Serene has __________ (slack) in her schoolwork ever since she learnt that her parents are getting a divorce.
2. Our company has decided to assign the job to the agency that offers the lowest __________ (quote).
3. Diamonds are valuable because of their __________ (rare).
4. It is advisable not to put all your hard-earned money into stocks because they are of a __________ (speculate) nature.
5. Young Johnny has just spent two hours telling us all about his future plans with his usual __________ (verbose).
6. __________ (regret), there will be no budget reserved for our company annual function this year.
7. The talks have ended in __________ (dead) since both parties refuse to give way.
8. Despite Veronica's __________ (peculiar) and occasional bursts of temper, she is still a well-liked person.
9. Please __________ (quick) your steps. We are already late for the party.
10. You have to go to the __________ (register) if you want to check your examination results.
11. The cost of this set of jewellery is so __________ (prohibit) that many people have abandoned thoughts of owning it.
12. Karen is claiming damages from the publishing company for their __________ (wrong) allegation against her.
13. I prefer to buy clothes from this boutique as the __________ (work) is better.
14. The stain is not __________ (notice) from afar because of the dark clothes you are wearing.
15. A __________ (boast) boy since young, Samuel does not even know how to be modest.
16. Supporters gave the team __________ (resound) cheers to boost the morale of the members before the race begins.
17. The __________ (pirate) merchants were merciless in setting exorbitant prices for necessities like rice and sugar during wartimes.
18. I almost mistook Jane for my niece as she bore a strong __________ (resemble) to my relative.

Challenge 15

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. It has been __________ (science) proven that smoking leads to lung cancer and many other related diseases.
2. "Why don't you go straight to the point and stop talking in a __________ (round) fashion?" Mr Gupta said impatiently.
3. During Chinese New Year, wishes for __________ (prosper) are common greetings among families and friends.
4. This is strictly a __________ (reside) area, so no factories are allowed to be set up here.
5. To the __________ (astonish) of her colleagues, Mandy resigned at the height of her career.
6. The suspicious Janet gave me a __________ (quiz) look when I asked her about her boyfriend.
7. It is not __________ (produce) trying to work and watch television at the same time.
8. Membership of this club is __________ (renew) upon payment of the fees by this month.
9. This song touches on the __________ (caprice) love between youngsters nowadays.
10. It was extremely __________ (sick) to us whenever the unhygenic George digs his nose in public.
11. The film star enjoys the __________ (anonymous) when she travels to foreign countries where nobody knows her.
12. Watching the animals being slaughtered was a __________ (repel) sight to many animal lovers.
13. It's __________ (baffle) to us that she left without saying goodbye to her family and friends.
14. This tabloid is not a very __________ (trust) source of information as most of the stories are sensationalised and blown out of proportions.
15. Tiffany has been accused of being a loose woman because she always dresses __________ (scant).
16. Emily still harbours deep __________ (resent) towards her parents for abandoning her when she was just a child.
17. I did not mean to hurt her. It was just a __________ (reflex) action on my part as a natural act of defence.
18. The nurse was in charge of immediate __________ (refer) of serious casualties to the emergency department of the hospital.

Challenge 16

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Even the most interesting job can become __________ (weary) when you do it everyday.
2. After much consideration, Michelle decided to buy a pen with a __________ (retract) tip instead of one with a cap.
3. Many people are concerned about the country's __________ (worse) political situation and some are even thinking of relocating to a safer country.
4. These old temples are in a __________ (restore) stage now, after which they will be opened to visitors and tourists alike.
5. New water has to undergo several stages of __________ (purify) before it is fit for consumption.
6. That was a __________ (spectacle) performance from the cast. They deserved our applause.
7. To reduce __________ (waste) of electricity, our family has decided to turn in early everyday.
8. He enjoyed the __________ (trap) of power such as a chauffeur-driven car and bodyguards.
9. Never resort to __________ (scruple) ways to get what you want in life.
10. After __________ (vigor) exercises, it is advisable not to take a shower immediately, but to rest and cool yourself down first.
11. The oppressed girl left home to escape the __________ (tyrant) rule of her mother and her unreasonable demands.
12. In many countries, children are increasingly being born out of __________ (wed).
13. The __________ (tranquil) of the countryside is something that my father seeks after his retirement.
14. Rumours that Ezann has been demoted are __________ (wide) in the company now.
15. It must have been an amazing experience for the villagers to see so many __________ (sky) in the city.
16. An amusing person by nature, Samuel seems to have a __________ (whim) air about him whenever I converse with him.
17. In his deep state of meditation, the monk forms a __________ (transcend) vision of the nature of Buddha.
18. At first, I thought this problem can be easily dealt with, but it seems to be less __________ (tract) than I had imagined.

Challenge 17

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. Felicia, who turned up late at the dinner, smiled __________ (apology) at the guests as she took her seat.
2. The __________ (reason) housewife insisted a refund from the salesman even though the product was in good working condition.
3. Some people believe that it is __________ (blasphemy) to say that God may be a woman.
4. Being fair __________ (skin), I have to be careful not to catch a sunburn whenever I go outdoors.
5. The dog made a __________ (vice) attack on Susan, causing her to suffer numerous cuts and bruises.
6. We may have run into problems trying to set up the program, but it is still __________ (rectify).
7. It is difficult for the clients to understand the proposals which have __________ (wool) in them.
8. Mark loves to attend galas where he can have the opportunity to mingle with the __________ (social) there.
9. __________ (vibrate) were felt even hundreds of miles from the occurrence of the earthquake.
10. The __________ (snob) parents like to show off the fact that their children can be admitted into elite schools.
11. To be granted an interview, you have to be able to pass this __________ (translate) test first.
12. The police has been trying to find clues amidst the car __________ (wreck) to determine if the accident was the result of an act of terrorism.
13. Josh has been __________ (study) reading his book throughout the whole afternoon.
14. The blacks are raising a riot as they believe they are being __________ (victim) by the whites.
15. This drama serial __________ (star) the leading actor and actress, has been slated to be screened at a primetime slot.
16. It is not the individual amounts that matter; it is the __________ (total) of what we have spent in all that counts.
17. Weather forecasts predict that there'll be a __________ (torrent) downpour this afternoon due to the prevailing monsoon season.
18. Judging from the __________ (placate) tone of the letter, it appears that the management is making a sincere apology to the disgruntled customer.

Challenge 18

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. My mother looked at me __________ (belligerent) for dressing in such an untidy fashion for the wedding dinner.
2. There was a sense of __________ (torpid) among the audience; most of them were stifling yawns and trying hard to pay attention.
3. The talkative boy has been sent out of the class for __________ (blab) during lessons.
4. Years of leaving the metal chairs out in the garden without maintenance have resulted in __________ (rust).
5. A __________ (vary) of fruits and vegetables is sold at the grocery store.
6. Mrs Ong finds it __________ (tire) to have to fetch her children from school during her lunch hour.
7. After receiving the bad news, Emilee was in a complete state of __________ (bewilder) and did not know what to do.
8. The teacher made use of the picture as an __________ (illustrate) to depict the story to the children.
9. The ex-robber has been doing community service as an __________ (atone) for his criminal acts.
10. The national flag may not look impressive, but __________ (symbol), it represents peace and racial harmony.
11. Robin begins to doubt the __________ (truth) of Millie's words as he has been duped by her too many times.
12. We were confronted by poverty and __________ (wretch) when we arrived at the rural slums.
13. The __________ (sight) trip to Eastern Europe was an eye-opener for all of us.
14. The newly improved face cream has __________ (wonder) effect on ageing skin.
15. We went to the musical __________ (recite) that evening for our first date.
16. A __________ (promise) note was issued to honour the loan - that $1 million had to be returned to the creditors by the end of the year.
17. Research strongly suggests that we can contribute to the __________ (prolong) of healthy life by altering our diets.
18. Champagne, a __________ (sparkle) wine, is served to the guests at the social function.

Challenge 19

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. To __________ (vapour) is to cause something to turn from a solid or liquid state into gas.
2. In court, an accurate __________ (transcribe) of what was said by the defendant has to be recorded.
3. Please come again another day as the __________ (visit) hours for today are over.
4. The government had resorted to political __________ (trick) in their attempts to retain power.
5. We have to test out the __________ (use) of these machines before agreeing to purchase them.
6. A picture frame often has __________ (bevel) edges to keep the painting in place.
7. Ever since little Emily fell sick, her mother has been __________ (vigil) at her bedside to nurse her back to health.
8. After listening to the sailor's adventures in faraway lands, I was struck with __________ (wander) and had a sudden urge to travel at once.
9. Unless an __________ system is used for arranging books in the National Library, it will virtually impossible to find a specific book in a short time.
10. Miranda was finally reigned the best female __________ (vocal) at the award after a long singing career.
11. I refuse to go on a trip with Fred because he is such a __________ (loathe) fellow.
12. The police is going to present an award to the citizen in __________ (recognise) of his bravery in catching the thief.
13. We had a __________ (stimulate) discussion and many new ideas were brought up.
14. Being a conservative organisation, such a __________ (revolution) idea may not be accepted.
15. We gave Gilbert a __________ (rapture) welcome back to school after his long stay in the hospital.
16. Doris looks older than her age because she is always dressed in __________ (frump) clothes - thick woollen cardigans and shapeless skirts.
17. The movie depicts scenes of the idyllic __________ (pasture) area in Scotland where farmers lead a simple life there.
18. The milk has been made safe to drink after having undergone __________ (pasteurise) - a scientific process which kills micro-organisms through exposure to a high temperature.

Challenge 20

Fill in each of the blanks with the correct form of the word in the brackets.

1. ✓ Every Sunday morning, __________ Worshippers (worship) would stream out of the cathedral after service.
2. Despite suffering from a failed marriage and poor health, Madam Fong has found the __________ (will) to carry on in life through her faith in God.
3. It was relaxing as we drove down the __________ (wind) coast off Great Ocean Road.
4. "Congratulations on your promotion," she said, trying to keep the trace of __________ (wistful) out of her voice.
5. When you __________ (trivial) something, you make it seem less important than it really is.
6. The two countries have been engaging in __________ (war) for years, resulting in severe casualties on both sides.
7. It was rather __________ (tact) of her to mention Mrs Lee's traumatic past at the gathering.
8. The King has made a __________ (proclaim) that whoever wins the duel can marry the beautiful Princess.
9. After slipping into a coma, Ginette has not been __________ (respond) to her friends' urge to wake up.
10. The children were __________ (vaccine) against all major childhood diseases at the clinic.
11. Despite repeated warnings, Henry is unable to change his __________ (way) behaviour.
12. No longer a rich man's son, Johnathan is now reduced to __________ (pilfer) food to relieve his hunger.
13. "Is it truly more democratic to hold a __________ (refer) rather than to let the government itself decide an important issue?" the student asked the Minister during a seminar.
14. Several companies have decided to invest in businesses in China because of the __________ (burgeon) economy there.
15. The __________ (reverberate) of the gunshot died away slowly as the movie came to an end.
16. The unicorn is just a __________ (myth) creature and does not exist in reality.
17. To her boss, Helen's commitment to the project is a strong __________ (manifest) of her interest in her job.
18. During wartimes, tapioca was the only form of __________ (sustain) the villagers had for months. They have to eat it for every meal.

Advanced Vocabulary for 'O' Level

ANSWERS

Part 1 : Multiple Choice Questions

Challenge	Question 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1	4	3	1	1	2	4	4	3	1	1	4
2	3	2	4	3	1	1	4	4	4	3	1	1
3	3	4	2	2	1	1	2	4	3	4	1	2
4	4	3	1	4	4	3	1	1	1	4	1	4
5	4	1	3	3	1	4	2	3	1	2	4	1
6	1	4	4	3	2	2	1	2	3	4	3	1
7	4	1	4	3	2	4	4	3	1	1	1	3
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	1
9	3	4	4	3	4	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
10	4	1	3	4	1	2	4	4	3	1	4	2
11	4	4	1	2	1	1	2	1	4	3	3	3
12	1	4	1	1	1	2	3	4	1	2	2	4
13	1	3	1	2	2	2	4	1	4	1	3	4
14	1	1	4	1	2	1	2	3	1	4	1	1
15	1	2	4	1	3	4	2	1	1	1	1	2
16	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	1	1	1	4	2
17	3	4	2	4	3	1	1	4	1	4	4	2
18	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	1	3	4	2	2
19	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	3	1	2	4	4
20	2	1	4	1	4	1	2	2	3	1	4	2
21	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	4
22	4	1	3	1	1	3	3	2	1	3	3	4
23	2	4	3	1	4	1	2	3	3	1	4	2
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26	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	3
27	3	4	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	4	1	1
28	3	2	4	1	4	1	4	4	1	4	1	3
29	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2
30	1	2	3	4	3	1	1	4	1	2	2	1
31	1	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	4	1	1	4
32	3	2	1	4	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	1
33	1	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	4	1	1	3
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35	2	1	4	2	2	4	3	3	1	3	1	1
36	2	2	4	1	4	4	2	1	2	2	2	4
37	1	1	3	1	2	3	4	1	1	3	1	2
38	1	4	3	4	1	2	3	1	4	4	2	1
39	1	2	1	3	4	4	1	1	1	3	2	2
40	2	2	4	4	1	3	4	2	1	2	3	3

Challenge	Question 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
41	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	4
42	3	1	2	4	3	3	3	1	2	4	4	3
43	2	2	1	3	4	2	1	2	1	2	2	3
44	2	3	4	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	2
45	3	1	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	4
46	2	4	1	1	3	1	3	4	1	2	3	2
47	2	2	1	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	3	2
48	4	1	2	2	2	1	1	4	3	1	4	3
49	2	3	4	1	2	1	3	4	2	2	3	2
50	2	1	3	4	1	2	4	1	3	3	2	3
51	2	3	3	2	4	1	1	2	3	2	4	1
52	3	1	2	3	2	4	4	1	2	2	3	4
53	3	4	1	1	3	4	3	4	1	3	3	2
54	1	2	3	4	4	1	3	4	1	2	3	2
55	3	3	1	3	2	4	4	1	1	2	1	1
56	4	1	4	2	4	3	4	1	2	3	3	1
57	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	4	1	1
58	4	4	2	1	2	4	1	3	3	4	1	4
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60	1	4	2	3	1	3	4	2	1	3	1	2
61	1	4	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	4	4
62	2	3	1	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	3
63	2	2	4	1	3	2	4	1	3	4	3	1
64	4	2	2	1	4	1	3	1	3	2	4	3
65	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	2	4	4	3	2
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67	1	1	4	2	2	1	4	3	2	4	3	3
68	1	1	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	4
69	3	3	4	4	4	1	2	2	1	3	4	1
70	2	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2
71	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	2
72	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	4	2	2	3	2
73	3	3	1	2	3	1	3	1	3	2	1	4
74	1	3	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	3
75	2	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	3	4
76	3	1	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
77	1	4	1	1	1	3	1	2	4	3	2	4
78	1	3	3	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	3	2
79	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	2
80	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	1	1	3	1	1

Part 2 : Confusing Words

Challenge 1

1. ingenuous
2. demographical
3. duel
4. embargo
5. foul
6. lather
7. exotic
8. rink
9. ranting
10. baubles
11. alibi
12. stature
13. imperious
14. litter
15. hesitancy

Challenge 2

1. trials
2. cuckold
3. desert
4. clique
5. bartender
6. manger
7. unorthodox
8. morale
9. aesthetically
10. broach
11. append
12. poring
13. fume
14. plume
15. illicit

Challenge 3

1. panned
2. ledger
3. floored
4. relegated
5. countess
6. remittance
7. dabble
8. envelops
9. abate
10. droll
11. introvert
12. squad
13. mediate
14. principal
15. emended

Challenge 4

1. sojourn
2. aerated
3. judicious
4. Astronomy
5. precocious
6. brigand
7. stationary
8. infamous
9. dispersion
10. scruff
11. boon
12. calluses
13. cleave
14. wily
15. trussed

Challenge 5

1. samplers	2. knead	3. gall	4. retching	5. copse
6. gallons	7. dregs	8. trammel	9. garnet	10. disciple
11. pauper	12. omnipresent	13. discrete	14. egged	15. apiary

Challenge 6

1. refugees	2. magnate	3. collage	4. reverie	5. demure
6. stimulated	7. averse	8. deign	9. grip	10. query
11. assured	12. excrement	13. fiend	14. sassy	15. insulate

Challenge 7

1. thresh	2. bombard	3. abode	4. slough	5. talons
6. galley	7. retract	8. cease	9. exuding	10. covet
11. congenital	12. gobbles	13. contort	14. sear	15. caricatures

Challenge 8

1. allay	2. ambience	3. neuter	4. nasal	5. Mussels
6. necromancy	7. annual	8. chafe	9. humane	10. inflating
11. usher	12. scavenge	13. immanent	14. incremental	15. wreak

Challenge 9

1. mettle	2. garb	3. wreath	4. marooned	5. buff
6. gantry	7. hapless	8. edicts	9. edifice	10. scarce
11. feud	12. pneumonia	13. homonym	14. auspices	15. trace

Challenge 10

1. paramount	2. regal	3. asterisk	4. import	5. percussion
6. canon	7. genial	8. foaming	9. pantry	10. runes
11. blazer	12. pare	13. trill	14. dependants	15. trifles

Challenge 11

1. descent	2. feign	3. relieve	4. hale	5. aspects
6. ironic	7. facets	8. infallible	9. context	10. shriek
11. burly	12. invocation	13. defiant	14. stead	15. eligible

Challenge 12

1. inane	2. flinch	3. pleasantries	4. adaptation	5. induce
6. bane	7. affected	8. volition	9. mandatory	10. trellis
11. dairy	12. provincial	13. composed	14. Paranoid	15. brood

Challenge 13

1. assets	2. whimper	3. extricate	4. conscience	5. lila
6. elicit	7. obscene	8. sobriety	9. relapse	10. stillborn
11. somber	12. expend	13. excavate	14. wrench	15. gourmet

Challenge 14

1. pips	2. reviled	3. suite	4. rue	5. haggle
6. congenital	7. duplicate	8. vet	9. rut	10. vacillating
11. disillusioned	12. medicinal	13. complimentary	14. escort	15. odious

Challenge 15

1. stave	2. trench	3. pore	4. sentient	5. belief
6. waiver	7. permissive	8. hex	9. Leeks	10. slack
11. solidarity	12. suave	13. quo	14. sage	15. piteous

Challenge 16

1. boost	2. salvage	3. famine	4. wallow	5. smothered
6. quarry	7. Bilateral	8. filters	9. confidential	10. vanquished
11. lull	12. commend	13. capacious	14. curtsey	15. repetitious

Challenge 17

1. scour	2. rectify	3. strain	4. distinct	5. embittered
6. scrimp	7. glut	8. announce	9. dearth	10. venue
11. buffer	12. proactive	13. baboon	14. pistol	15. rapt

Challenge 18

1. motion	2. mellow	3. terse	4. sleuths	5. reflect
6. brine	7. decoy	8. granules	9. preamble	10. tinge
11. refuse	12. smudge	13. Freeze	14. epithet	15. horde

Challenge 19

1. lease	2. subside	3. trowel	4. interred	5. billowy
6. interstices	7. aesthetic	8. chronic	9. atone	10. reposing
11. hospice	12. ply	13. droves	14. pester	15. earthly

Challenge 20

1. poach	2. aural	3. static	4. dragoon	5. solder
6. grit	7. enmity	8. alleviate	9. tarnish	10. dolly
11. dominated	12. conducive	13. shag	14. swaddled	15. dissimulate

Challenge 21

1. helm	2. plausible	3. exhorting	4. mail	5. portico
6. edge	7. harsh	8. cinematography	9. disinterested	10. urbane
11. founded	12. rabble	13. trump	14. floundering	15. linage

Challenge 22

1. fleet	2. jowls	3. quartet	4. tempered	5. pelts
6. teeming	7. optimism	8. touts	9. finesse	10. palette
11. hunch	12. fragrant	13. discomfiture	14. croon	15. mandatory

Challenge 23

1. durable	2. pocus	3. fray	4. marquee	5. stash
6. mesh	7. hoarse	8. scam	9. portal	10. top
11. vaulted	12. whet	13. yore	14. rivets	15. inflammatory

Challenge 24

1. noose	2. ceremony	3. memento	4. tiers	5. loped
6. surrounded	7. cosmopolitan	8. trap	9. friars	10. gut
11. shrouded	12. pursed	13. gnash	14. purview	15. epidermic

Challenge 25

1. revolution	2. reviewer	3. plunder	4. crisis	5. human
6. rouge	7. almanac	8. tonsure	9. axle	10. cue
11. grimace	12. valve	13. petite	14. emigrants	15. picket

Challenge 26

1. splice	2. topography	3. magnetic	4. berate	5. interspersing
6. hydrate	7. coach	8. hybrids	9. sensory	10. hull
11. fatal	12. doles	13. calibre	14. breeches	15. illusion

Challenge 27

1. cobbler	2. processed	3. flavours	4. railing	5. toilette
6. pose	7. lisp	8. falter	9. grazing	10. concussion
11. reeling	12. preening	13. friar	14. prefect	15. alternative

Challenge 28

1. errant	2. grog	3. cologne	4. gondola	5. capering
6. boa	7. breadth	8. capitalised	9. dock	10. hackles
11. toggle	12. din	13. chandelier	14. flex	15. reparable

✓**Challenge 29**

✓1. aback	2. chambermaid	3. guarantor	4. neckline	5. whisk
✓6. artless	7. octaves	8. ado	9. immeasurable	10. bared
✓11. inventory	12. Dice	13. scull	✓14. embalming	15. septic

Challenge 30

1. watermark	2. concrete	3. ribbing	4. mint	5. scrape
6. livery	7. spry	8. forefoot	9. evict	10. enumerate
11. laudatory	12. infidelities	13. dotage	14. sundries	15. forging

art 3 : Mastering Tough Vocabulary

Challenge	Question														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	5	8	1	13	9	10	2	4	15	11	3	7	6	12	14
2	15	7	2	5	14	1	11	10	8	3	9	13	4	12	6
3	13	1	15	8	7	2	9	14	3	12	5	11	10	6	4
4	8	15	7	5	1	10	2	14	11	9	3	6	13	12	4
5	9	5	15	2	8	14	10	1	3	11	7	13	6	12	4
6	12	8	2	1	15	4	14	9	10	3	13	7	11	6	5
7	7	10	15	1	13	4	11	2	3	12	8	14	9	6	5
8	14	9	5	15	1	10	3	8	11	2	6	7	4	13	12
9	6	8	14	1	2	15	10	3	11	5	9	13	12	7	4
10	7	1	15	13	2	4	10	5	14	8	9	12	11	6	3
11	14	3	15	1	4	2	11	12	8	6	7	13	10	9	5
12	2	11	12	1	8	15	7	10	6	4	5	9	14	3	13
13	3	10	2	15	14	1	13	9	4	6	5	8	12	11	7
14	10	3	15	8	2	9	4	12	7	6	13	14	11	5	1
15	14	7	1	8	12	2	10	4	13	5	6	15	11	9	3
16	9	1	14	13	8	2	10	5	11	15	3	6	12	7	4
17	4	10	12	1	15	8	13	9	2	5	6	14	11	3	7
18	11	5	8	9	15	13	2	1	4	14	6	7	10	12	3
19	7	14	8	1	15	10	2	9	11	4	3	6	13	12	5
20	6	1	13	15	4	3	9	10	12	2	8	11	14	7	5
21	14	4	9	15	10	1	11	8	3	12	2	13	7	5	6
22	2	14	10	8	9	11	4	1	7	3	15	13	12	6	5
23	10	15	13	1	9	3	2	11	7	8	12	14	6	5	4
24	15	10	8	1	2	13	12	4	3	9	14	7	6	11	5
25	8	7	15	10	11	12	9	5	3	1	13	14	6	4	2

4 : Synonyms & Antonyms

lenge 1

ctful	*indiscreet*	*2. abstract*	*concrete*	*3. defeated*	*victorious*
ough	*peaceful*	*5. gentle*	*plain*	*6. unkind*	*pleasant*
articular	*easy*	*8 hostile*	*polite*	*9. confusing*	*clear*
isfortune	*blessing*	*11. wise*	*brash*	*12. noticeably*	*obscurely*
ommotion	*peace*	*14. bitterness*	*kindness*	*15. gleaming*	*dull*

lenge 2

rregularly	*steadily*	*2. idiot*	*genius*	*3. gaiety*	*melancholy*
ig-hearted	*mean*	*5. rebuffed*	*encouraged*	*6. cruel*	*compassionate*
nactive	*livened*	*8. monotonous*	*exciting*	*9. submissive*	*willful*
odest	*arrogant*	*11. departure*	*influx*	*12. necessary*	*dispensable*
alculated	*unthinking*	*14. flamboyant*	*plain*	*15. elated*	*mournful*

lenge 3

diculous	*reasonable*	*2. inaudible*	*noisy*	*3. raised*	*decreased*
iscomforts	*luxury*	*5. greed*	*contentment*	*6. truthfulness*	*dishonesty*
nprepared	*planned*	*8. choosy*	*easygoing*	*9. manoeuvred*	*unplanned*
ought	*undesirable*	*11 twisted*	*unravelled*	*12. secretive*	*open*
ring	*effortless*	*14. productive*	*inefficient*	*15. superficial*	*real*

lenge 4

npleasant	*alluring*	*2. calmness*	*disturbance*	*3. infinite*	*measurable*
njust	*fair*	*5. unstoppable*	*controlled*	*6. evil*	*harmless*
eadly	*benign*	*8. insurmountable*	*effortless*	*9. disapproving*	*acceptable*
ementary	*developed*	*11. destroyed*	*preserved*	*12. ancient*	*modern*
stressed	*idle*	*14. immoral*	*chaste*	*15. reserved*	*vivacious*

Challenge 5

1. disapproved	*encouraged*	*2. begged*	*demanded*	*3. disappointed*	*elated*
4. skilfully	*clumsily*	*5. miserable*	*joyful*	*6 broken*	*conciliated*
7. derogatory	*appreciative*	*8. difference*	*correspondence*	*9. clean*	*untidy*
10. annoyed	*appeased*	*11. talkative*	*taciturn*	*12. noisy*	*melodious*
13. brightened	*darkened*	*14. captivating*	*uninteresting*	*15. dull*	*engaging*

Challenge 6

1. poor	*wealthy*	*2. hindered*	*hastened*	*3. impeding*	*unforeseen*
4. travelling	*stationary*	*5. filthy*	*immaculate*	*6. grandoise*	*simple*
7. impertinent	*sober*	*8. marred*	*beautified*	*9. filthy*	*hygienic*
10. unsatisfied	*contented*	*11. eagerly*	*indifferently*	*12. rebellious*	*compliant*
13. stifled	*amplified*	*14. pacify*	*incite*	*15. amassed*	*squandered*

Challenge 7

1. limp	*sprint*	*2. monstrous*	*lovely*	*3. perilous*	*secure*
4. unplanned	*intended*	*5. unfounded*	*evident*	*6. pointless*	*worthwhile*
7. unproductive	*fruitful*	*8. facetious*	*serious*	*9. utmost*	*trivial*
10. stingy	*generous*	*11. particular*	*unbiased*	*12. penniless*	*prosperous*
13. penitence	*guiltlessness*	*14. revive*	*deaden*	*15. humiliating*	*victorious*

Challenge 8

1. sharp	*insipid*	*2. calmness*	*disturbance*	*3. elastic*	*inflexible*
4. distressing	*pleasant*	*5. composure*	*ineptitude*	*6. portly*	*slender*
7. widespread	*uncommon*	*8. astounded*	*unruffled*	*9. ostentatious*	*unobtrusive*
10. bitterness	*friendliness*	*11. harassed*	*ignored*	*12. gigantic*	*miniature*
13. hysterical	*controlled*	*14. redundant*	*necessary*	*15. governed*	*uncontrolled*

Challenge 9

1. absolved	*blamed*	*2. abundance*	*dearth*	*3. postponed*	*convened*
4. weakness	*strength*	*5. supportive*	*disapproving*	*6. uneasiness*	*self-assuredness*
7. arrogant	*humble*	*8. aversion*	*affinity*	*9. improve*	*worsen*
10. sooty	*pristine*	*11. unruly*	*composed*	*12. shackles*	*freedom*
13. boast	*deprecate*	*14. principal*	*auxiliary*	*15. uproar*	*tranquillity*

Challenge 10

1. foreknowledge	*unawareness*	*2. skilfulness*	*awkwardness*	*3. fearless*	*cowardly*
4. diffuse	*concentrate*	*5. mundane*	*interesting*	*6. conferred*	*withdrew*
7. habitual	*occasional*	*8. co-existents*	*antecedents*	*9. sporadic*	*incessant*
10. approval	*prohibition*	*11. renounced*	*yearned*	*12. clumsiness*	*gracefulness*
13. reliance	*cowardice*	*14. disapproving*	*encouraging*	*15. contempt*	*admiration*

Challenge 11

1. violation	*adherence*	*2. dissolution*	*union*	*3. shameless*	*reputable*
4. arid	*moist*	*5. ornamented*	*unadorned*	*6. excessive*	*moderate*
7. invigorating	*uninspiring*	*8. antiquated*	*modern*	*9. rotten*	*fresh*
10. haggard	*animated*	*11. grave*	*cheerful*	*12. inadvisable*	*appropriate*
13. unacceptable	*suitable*	*14. perdition*	*heaven*	*15. inclination*	*reluctance*

Challenge 12

1. lazy	*diligent*	*2. exalted*	*humble*	*3. appease*	*infuriate*
4. dominant	*minor*	*5. bitterness*	*mildness*	*6. measurable*	*infinite*
7. mockery	*representation*	*8. fleeting*	*everlasting*	*9. sulk*	*grin*
10. myth	*reality*	*11. clothed*	*unadorned*	*12. frail*	*sturdy*
13. dallies	*hurries*	*14. unfortunate*	*blessed*	*15. reverence*	*disrespect*

Challenge 13

1. secure	*unsafe*	*2. false*	*genuine*	*3. furtive*	*candid*
4. shoddy	*opulent*	*5. declining*	*thriving*	*6. betraying*	*loyal*
7. revengeful	*forgiving*	*8. humiliation*	*honour*	*9. grumpy*	*agreeable*
10. surrounded	*deserted*	*11. rude*	*friendly*	*12. suitable*	*inappropriate*
13. detached	*agitated*	*14. exhaustion*	*vibrancy*	*15. irritable*	*genial*

Challenge 14

1. quiet	*disturbed*	*2. haughty*	*modest*	*3. determination*	*irresolution*
4. peak	*trough*	*5. enthusiasm*	*apathy*	*6. hypocritical*	*blunt*
7. strongly	*mildly*	*8. stubborn*	*compromising*	*9. bright*	*neutral*
10. attracted	*repelled*	*11. contemplated*	*disregarded*	*12. generous*	*miserly*
13. damaged	*mended*	*14. unimportant*	*critical*	*15. determined*	*irresolute*

Challenge 15

1. genius	idiot	2. thick	sparse	3. tied	loose
4. relentless	changeable	5. unaffected	influenced	6. indefinite	measurable
7. respect	disobedience	8. irrelevant	related	9. stale	fresh
10. sluggishly	energetically	11. active	sedated	12. revelry	solemnity
13. harmless	deadly	14. symbolic	literal	15. lighted	extinguished

Challenge 16

1. immoral	innocent	2. disgusting	pleasant	3. wisdom	foolishness
4. crazy	cynical	5. whimsical	dogged	6. untruthful	honest
7. fortunate	unlucky	8. break	uphold	9. hypocritical	sincere
10. rebellious	submissive	11. boring	imaginative	12. argumentative	calm
13. coordinated	jarring	14. arid	cool	15. egoistic	altruistic

Challenge 17

1. godly	sinful	2. diminishing	increasing	3. tremulous	calm
4. attractive	undesirable	5. talkative	taciturn	6. early	slow
7. impractical	realistic	8. harmless	lethal	9. intimidated	enspirited
10. pensive	inattentive	11. greedy	selfish	12. persuading	threatening
13. strange	usual	14. foolish	ingenious	15. flexible	uncontrollable

Challenge 18

1. offensive	approved	2. cynical	approving	3. regretful	guiltless
4. heavenly	hellish	5. inborn	acquired	6. different	similar
7. disturbing	calm	8. details	summary	9. lowering	flowing
10. condemned	appraised	11. rundown	managed	12. uniform	diverse
13. fair	unreasonable	14. essential	unnecessary	15. prevention	encouragement

Challenge 19

1. sensational	conventional	2. escaped	encountered	3. loyalty	treason
4. quality	discounted	5. ridiculous	ingenious	6. fated	chanced
7. splendid	unspectacular	8. extinguished	ignited	9. clothed	undressed
10. emotional	detached	11. unwavering	weakening	12. unnecessary	justified
13. brave	cowardly	14. forgiving	vengeful	15. submissive	rebellious

Challenge 20

1. disrespectful	sacred	2. insipidity	zeal	3. complicated	simple
4. sharp	friendly	5. weaken	strengthen	6. tedious	effortless
7. warm	hostile	8. involve	disengage	9. symbol	misrepresentation
10. dull	inspiring	11. pompous	humble	12. satisfaction	discontent
13. separate	assemble	14. gross	noble	15. disdainful	humble

Challenge 21

1. criticised	commended	2. yielded	rejected	3. floods	trickles
4. abrupt	friendly	5. fiendish	seraphic	6. sacred	unholy
7. haven	hell	8. positive	pessimistic	9. calmness	disturbance
10. respectable	degrading	11. harmful	beneficial	12. cautious	unguarded
13. spacious	crammed	14. yellowish	rosy	15. dazed	alert

Challenge 22

1. responsible	guiltless	2. disinterested	enthusiastic	3. edges	centre
4. appetising	unacceptable	5. nonsense	wisdom	6. tiny	munificent
7. descendents	ancestors	8. sulky	jovial	9. sluggish	active
10. prim	liberal	11. reserved	extroverted	12. conceited	modest
13. freed	restrained	14. weaknesses	strengths	15. irritable	soothed

Challenge 23

1. undeniable	disputable	2. varied	single	3. sharp	gentle
4. disjointed	flowing	5. concise	longwinded	6. outgoing	anti-social
7. huge	paltry	8. quick	slow	9. eradicate	preserve
10. awkward	deft	11. doubtlessly	uncertainly	12. quarrelsome	peace-loving
13. remarkable	ordinary	14. pale	flushed	15. dreamlike	realistic

Challenge 24

1. stormy	uneventful	2. disgust	pleasure	3. damaging	harmless
4. exciting	monotonous	5. covered	unveiled	6. weakened	strengthened
7. immoral	upright	8. vitality	lethargy	9. unforgettable	unmemorable
10. amusing	boring	11. thick	diluted	12. messy	immaculate
13. frightening	pleasant	14. worried	composed	15. lively	dull

Challenge 25

1. confusing	clear	2. neglected	attended	3. panicked	composed
4. exhausted	invigorated	5. bonded	freed	6. decorated	unadorned
7. pleasant	severe	8. complained	praised	9. detailed	abridged
10. censored	unedited	11. excite	soothe	12. unfavourable	raving
13. worsen	improve	14. displayed	hidden	15. fleeting	everlasting

Challenge 26

1. group	solo	2. embroiled	uninvolved	3. respect	disregard
4. explain	baffle	5. humorous	solemn	6. energetic	lifeless
7. dropped	increased	8. melancholic	cheerful	9. disconsent	agreement
10. indifferent	interested	11. cease	persist	12. disapproved	supported
13. delightful	unpleasant	14. gullible	smart	15. separated	merged

Challenge 27

1. charming	unattractive	2. weakened	strengthened	3. floating	sinking
4. cringed	welcomed	5. unchangeable	modifiable	6. confidence	uncertainty
7. dangerously	securely	8. heart-wrenching	pitiless	9. gloomy	joyful
10. workable	malfunctioning	11. plentifully	meagrely	12. verbose	succinct
13. spreads	withholds	14. mourning	rejoicing	15. competence	disability

Challenge 28

1. cowardly	fearlessly	2. serenity	disturbance	3. shaking	unaffected
4. extreme	moderate	5. returned	rejected	6. leaning	upright
7. determined	indecisive	8. denied	accepted	9. strength	weakness
10. wandering	fixed	11. selfless	avaricious	12. exciting	boring
13. delicious	unpalatable	14. strict	lenient	15. gruesome	pleasant

Challenge 29

1. masculine	effeminate	2. prided	shamed	3. entertained	ignored
4. alleviate	intensify	5. remember	forget	6. confused	enlightened
7. antagonistic	cordial	8. enticed	repelled	9. mourns	celebrates
10. marred	untarnished	11. expressive	unaroused	12. danger	security
13. unintentionally	deliberately	14. discordant	compatible	15. initial	terminal

Challenge 30

1. trapped	escaped	2. plentiful	scarce	3. unhurt	injured
4. respected	despised	5. destroy	uphold	6. softened	toughened
7. climax	anti-climax	8. friendly	haughty	9. calamity	blessing
10. triumph	failure	11. condemned	applauded	12. heavenly	earthly
13. scorn	respect	14. flood	drought	15. display	hide

Part 5 : Challenging Phrasal Verbs

Challenge 1

1. dwell upon	2. nursed, through	3. stay up	4. sticking by	5. strike up
6. shrivelled up	7. thrashed out	8. write off	9. try out	10. passed away
11. tracked down	12. own up	13. called upon	14. order, about	15. gulps down

Challenge 2

1. laid off	2. drowns out	3. gobble up	4. idling, away	5. set forth
6. inquire into	7. flaring up	8. hangs up	9. give up	10. lashed out
11. spell, out	12. peak off	13. looked through	14. queue up	15. rolling in

Challenge 3

1. tag along	2. turns out	3. waiting up	4. wiped, off	5. smooth out
6. take, back	7. stepped down	8. straighten out	9. win back	10. shop around
11. moving about	12. mess around	13. pull over	14. stand aside	15. sinks in

Challenge 4

1. settled down	2. sparked off	3. drifted off	4. let, in	5. fill in
6. face up	7. last out	8. carried away	9. chew over	10. stands in
11. egg, on	12. piled up	13. dines out	14. cover up	15. chalked up

Challenge 5

1. summon up	2. vouch for	3. trip over	4. tenses up	5. shake off
6. roped in	7. put up	8. ask, out	9. called off	10. cleared up
11. booked up	12. beefs, up	13. blurts out	14. slapped onto	15. rattling on

Challenge 6
1. barge into
2. bargained for
3. faded out
4. dress up
5. dozed off
6. stay behind
7. stock up
8. touched upon
9. track down
10. nudging along
11. weather through
12. reach out
13. move forward
14. playing back
15. used up

Challenge 7
1. carry, through
2. dolling up
3. rummaged through
4. show off
5. puts, off
6. muddle up
7. looks down
8. sent up
9. rubbing, in
10. bumped into
11. called away
12. dragging on
13. ladles out
14. killed off
15. skim through

Challenge 8
1. tucks, in
2. thrash out
3. turned down
4. watch out
5. weighed down
6. tosses out
7. turn away
8. take off
9. scours about
10. skimmed off
11. pitch in
12. threw, out
13. makes up
14. liven up
15. narrowed, down

Challenge 9
1. fell through
2. frowned upon
3. get ahead
4. get over
5. conjures up
6. inquire after
7. laugh off
8. Go over
9. geared up
10. flipped through
11. get away
12. follow up
13. passes out
14. mark out
15. plunging into

Challenge 10
1. fix up
2. push on
3. hand over
4. rein back
5. shies away
6. see to
7. running into
8. shut, in
9. taken down
10. scrape along
11. sit back
12. sober up
13. cropped up
14. measure up
15. plucks up

Challenge 11
1. pelting down
2. lets on
3. ripped, off
4. singles, out
5. taking apart
6. stand by
7. pulls through
8. fritter, away
9. churn out
10. dashes off
11. snuffed out
12. brought up
13. head back
14. breaks down
15. dish out

Challenge 12
1. be through
2. do away
3. cough up
4. cut off
5. let, off
6. kicking up
7. spurs, on
8. struggle on
9. walk out
10. singled out
11. tipped off
12. worked up
13. toils on
14. stem from
15. hovering around

Challenge 13
1. jump on
2. keep to
3. lead, on
4. gang up on
5. finishes off
6. goes off
7. cast aside
8. goes back
9. get along
10. hands down
11. jot down
12. hear, out
13. folded up
14. fend off
15. go along

Challenge 14
1. kept out
2. hang back
3. leaked out
4. Lay aside
5. knocking down
6. open up
7. chewed over
8. smartened up
9. mess, up
10. wrapped up
11. pored over
12. simmer down
13. spruced up
14. sign, on
15. draw in

Challenge 15
1. sweet talk
2. sold, out
3. ruled out
4. see about
5. roughs out
6. map out
7. marked down
8. looked up
9. lingering on
10. lights up
11. put, across
12. made off
13. go down
14. done for
15. get on

Challenge 16
1. lies behind
2. turn up
3. run through
4. portioned out
5. meted out
6. pared down
7. polish up
8. mulling over
9. pep, up
10. hanging around
11. hold back
12. hit, off
13. hold, up
14. fattened up
15. blow over

Challenge 17
1. back, up
2. fork out
3. get on
4. rush through
5. pair off
6. pin down
7. plod along
8. oozes out
9. packed in
10. give, away
11. looked into
12. perk, up
13. shoved over
14. buck up
15. sent off

Challenge 18
1. stirring up
2. stowed away
3. zeros in
4. worn off
5. spread out
6. put, through
7. jack up
8. came down with
9. press on
10. brings in
11. loosen up
12. worked up
13. leave out
14. brush, off
15. driving at

Challenge 19
1. gets by
2. hankering after
3. live up,
4. harping on
5. cash in
6. move, up
7. picks out
8. pops in
9. sailed through
10. shifted, away
11. mustered up
12. see through
13. think, over
14. touched up
15. add up

Challenge 20
1. taken over
2. told off
3. shuffle, off
4. run up
5. came upon
6. sworn off
7. taken aback
8. wade through
9. yank off
10. walked off
11. teamed up
12. try on
13. think up
14. belting out
15. done up

Challenge 21
1. fall behind
2. carry out
3. buys up
4. backed away
5. bound up
6. rattle off
7. packed off
8. pressed for
9. pulled down
10. pass off
11. live through
12. keep up
13. put aside
14. reads up
15. put forward

Challenge 22
1. settle upon
2. patched up
3. pent up
4. mark up
5. pass, back
6. poking around
7. pull back
8. nods off
9. looks up
10. look ahead
11. moved out
12. hop in
13. head back
14. leave, behind
15. mixed up

Challenge 23
1. laughed at
2. leaves off
3. lets out
4. lay out
5. leading off
6. letting, down
7. ends up
8. landed up
9. gone under
10. go ahead
11. gives in
12. hammers in
13. jumps at
14. linked up
15. withered up

Challenge 24
1. pay back
2. read on
3. reel off
4. stacked up
5. swelled up
6. shows up
7. slack off
8. stick up
9. swears by
10. take after
11. stretch out
12. stay up
13. stand up
14. wrapped up
15. turned, over

Challenge 25
1. branched out
2. gears up
3. cheer on
4. cleaned out
5. drew on
6. drop in
7. locked up
8. look out
9. nails down
10. ruffled up
11. pieced together
12. pitches in
13. put, down
14. shuts, away
15. let in for

Challenge 26
1. runs out
2. scored off
3. round up
4. shoves, off
5. slogging away
6. slashed down
7. sleeping, off
8. sift out
9. sign in
10. search for
11. rub out
12. hand in
13. fallen out
14. drive out
15. ticked off

Challenge 27
1. came down with
2. break out
3. brought around
4. draws up
5. cut down
6. rattled off
7. brushed aside
8. bring, down
9. ease off
10. buy over
11. got up
12. bolt down
13. given out
14. see to
15. sent away

Challenge 28
1. set about
2. set, back
3. speaking for
4. talk back
5. throw up
6. slashed back
7. sets off
8. shake, up
9. make out
10. keyed up
11. gone out
12. figure out
13. blocked up
14. bow down
15. catch up with

Challenge 29
1. decked out
2. died off
3. count on
4. come across
5. cropped up
6. carry on
7. draws back
8. ease off
9. eaten into
10. gave, away
11. going after
12. hold on
13. help out
14. going about
15. pull over

Challenge 30
1. points out
2. spaced out
3. spell, out
4. squabble away
5. throws in
6. paid, off
7. scratch out
8. sent in
9. taken on
10. tuned up
11. tire, out
12. mounted up
13. taken up
14. ward off
15. weighing over

Challenge 31
1. touch down
2. taken up
3. tone down
4. toppled over
5. set
6. shrugs off
7. grown out of
8. gets at
9. dishes up
10. backs out
11. answer, back
12. eats, out
13. calls out
14. burnt out
15. clear away

Challenge 32
1. brought about
2. chip in
3. come off
4. driving up
5. faded away
6. fall back on
7. go in for
8. kicks off
9. keep up with
10. knocked out
11. hanging on
12. hushed up
13. cluttered up
14. join in
15. lying in

Challenge 33
1. loosen up
2. look back
3. screwed up
4. nip out
5. passed down
6. poke in
7. run after
8. settle down
9. slip up
10. smashes up
11. soak up
12. sort out
13. strikes out
14. string, along
15. step down

Challenge 34
1. stick at
2. shot down
3. read over
4. going on
5. flushed out
6. blows out
7. broke into
8. call on
9. be along
10. draw up
11. check in
12. draw, apart
13. go with
14. iron out
15. rattling through

Challenge 35
1. read off
2. saddled with
3. looking forward to
4. ask for
5. called in
6. break through
7. butter up
8. fell for
9. cook up
10. came to
11. keep away from
12. miss out
13. makes away with
14. longing for
15. played about

Challenge 36
1. put up
2. quietened down
3. reckon up
4. struck off
5. suck up to
6. sum up
7. wait about
8. take, in
9. turned inside out
10. weeded out
11. work, out
12. turn in
13. throw off
14. tied down
15. wait on

Challenge 37
1. leaps at
2. size, up
3. set aside
4. slammed down
5. shuts, up
6. scale up
7. meet up with
8. look on
9. get together
10. jammed in
11. hobble around
12. throw in
13. struck back
14. pass by
15. loafs, away

Challenge 38
1. put out
2. plays, down
3. hooks up
4. put, down
5. reasons out
6. pulled out
7. spill over
8. split up
9. stored up
10. serving up
11. stay away
12. seek out
13. worn out
14. won over
15. lives on

Challenge 39
1. wolf down
2. works off
3. worms out
4. tune in
5. skips over
6. wind down
7. thawed out
8. taken, to
9. stamp out
10. stand for
11. shaping up
12. stands out
13. wash up
14. turn back
15. warm up

Challenge 40
1. warned off
2. tops up
3. yells out
4. takes, out
5. blot out
6. butting in
7. caves in
8. close up
9. closed down
10. came out
11. cool, down
12. count, out
13. fitted out
14. cleared out
15. weeded out

Part 6 : Challenging Idioms

Challenge	Question														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	13	6	12	5	11	14	1	10	7	15	8	2	3	9	4
2	3	8	14	11	10	1	13	12	6	15	5	7	2	9	4
3	11	14	10	4	5	12	9	6	1	13	2	7	15	3	8
4	8	13	9	5	11	6	7	1	10	12	2	15	3	14	4
5	7	12	8	11	6	9	1	13	14	2	10	3	5	15	4
6	6	11	5	12	4	10	8	14	7	1	13	9	15	2	3
7	2	7	6	11	8	9	3	10	5	1	12	4	13	15	14
8	9	8	7	6	10	5	12	15	11	4	2	1	3	13	14
9	9	11	14	10	12	13	4	1	5	6	7	8	2	15	3
10	8	12	7	13	6	9	10	5	1	11	2	15	3	4	14
11	4	6	12	1	11	10	5	15	14	7	2	8	3	13	9
12	15	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	12	1	6	14	2	13	8
13	7	8	10	5	4	15	12	1	9	3	6	2	11	14	13
14	6	14	7	8	9	1	12	10	13	2	5	11	3	15	4
15	5	15	6	7	9	10	11	1	12	8	2	13	3	4	14
16	3	11	12	4	1	5	13	2	6	7	14	9	8	10	15
17	2	11	3	13	10	8	15	9	5	1	14	6	7	12	4
18	2	14	1	15	5	4	3	6	12	13	11	7	8	9	10
19	12	1	8	15	11	7	9	10	2	6	13	14	3	4	5
20	11	9	10	12	3	13	15	1	7	14	2	5	6	8	4
21	15	1	14	3	2	4	12	13	5	6	10	7	11	8	9
22	7	15	1	14	8	12	2	9	10	11	13	3	4	5	6
23	1	9	10	12	14	2	13	11	3	6	8	15	4	5	7
24	7	1	8	2	9	3	15	10	14	13	4	11	5	12	6
25	6	14	1	5	7	2	15	3	4	8	13	9	10	11	12
26	8	10	9	15	7	14	6	1	11	12	13	2	3	4	5
27	7	1	8	9	11	3	15	2	4	5	6	12	14	10	13
28	14	15	6	8	7	1	11	2	3	13	5	9	10	4	12
29	15	9	8	10	1	7	14	2	12	11	3	4	5	6	13
30	13	4	12	8	5	11	9	1	10	6	14	15	7	2	3

Challenge	Question														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
31	5	1	7	6	2	8	12	10	15	3	4	9	13	14	11
32	9	1	15	3	12	10	13	2	8	7	11	4	14	5	6
33	9	1	10	11	12	13	15	14	2	7	8	3	4	5	6
34	11	10	12	1	6	15	7	14	2	13	8	3	4	5	9
35	5	6	7	11	4	8	3	1	9	10	2	12	14	15	13
36	11	10	15	13	5	4	6	12	14	1	9	8	2	7	3
37	15	10	9	6	1	8	11	7	5	2	3	4	12	14	13
38	5	14	12	1	10	6	11	7	8	2	9	13	15	3	4
39	11	12	1	8	5	7	13	9	10	2	6	14	3	4	15
40	15	12	8	9	10	14	7	4	11	5	13	1	3	2	6
41	6	10	8	14	9	7	15	11	1	13	2	3	4	5	12
42	15	14	13	7	4	6	8	5	1	2	9	3	10	11	12
43	12	11	14	9	7	2	10	15	13	1	8	4	3	5	6
44	14	6	5	1	13	7	15	12	2	11	8	3	4	9	10
45	4	1	11	15	5	9	2	3	10	6	7	8	14	12	13
46	15	14	2	3	5	1	6	4	10	11	7	8	9	13	12
47	11	10	2	9	14	1	8	3	15	4	12	7	5	6	13
48	2	3	12	1	4	13	14	15	9	6	11	5	7	10	8
49	6	1	5	2	14	7	12	3	13	9	15	4	8	10	11
50	12	13	15	1	7	6	4	2	5	14	8	10	3	9	11

Part 7 : Challenging Proverbs

Challenge 1
1. *Possession is nine points of the law*
2. *One might as well be hanged for a sheep*
3. *Power corrupts*
4. *What you lose on the swings, you gain on the roundabouts*
5. *Revenge is sweet*
6. *You cannot have it both ways*
7. *Self-praise is no recommendation*
8. *All that glitters is not gold*
9. *Something is better than nothing*
10. *Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves*
11. *You cannot make bricks without straw*
12. *Any stick will serve to beat a dog*
13. *Ask no questions and hear no lies*
14. *Set a thief to catch a thief*

Challenge 2
1. *Cross the stream where it is shallowest*
2. *A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush*
3. *The best fish swim near the bottom*
4. *Don't cast your pearls before a swine*
5. *Fine feathers make fine birds*
6. *Money is the root of all evil*
7. *If wishes were horses, beggars would ride*
8. *Out of sight, out of mind*
9. *Don't empty the baby out with the bath water*
10. *Necessity is the mother of invention*
11. *There's no place like home*
12. *A good name is sooner lost than won*
13. *Rome was not built in a day*
14. *Make hay while the sun shines*

Challenge 3
1. *It is useless to flog a dead horse*
2. *Give credit where credit is due*
3. *A heavy purse makes a light heart*
4. *Men strain at gnats and swallow camels*
5. *All his geese are swans*
6. *A house divided against itself cannot stand*
7. *Every family has a skeleton in the closet*
8. *First thrive and then wife*
9. *People who live in glass houses should not throw stones*
10. *The proof of the pudding is in the eating*
11. *Speech is silver, silence is golden*
12. *When the cat is away, the mice will play*
13. *A watched pot never boils*
14. *The darkest hour is just before the dawn*

Challenge 4
1. *Nothing ventured, nothing gained*
2. *Never buy a pig in a poke*
3. *Faint heart never won fair lady*
4. *As you sow, so shall you reap*
5. *A constant guest is never welcome*
6. *Don't put all your eggs in one basket*
7. *The course of true love never runs smooth*
8. *Two of a trade never agree*
9. *Two wrongs do not make a right*
10. *A contented mind is a perpetual feast*
11. *Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today*
12. *Fortune knocks at least once at every man's door*
13. *He who pays the piper calls the tune*
14. *Diamond cuts diamond*

Challenge 5

1. Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs
3. Don't cry before you are hurt
5. A miss is as good as a mile
7. Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown
9. Prevention is better than cure
11. New brooms sweep clean
13. When in Rome, do as the Romans do

2. Better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave
4. The early bird catches the worm
6. Don't put new wine into old bottles
8. One man's meat is another man's poison
10. Seeing is believing
12. A rolling stone gathers no moss
14. Half a loaf is better than no bread

Challenge 6

1. Too many cooks spoil the broth
3. A stitch in time saves nine
5. Spare the rod and spoil the child
7. A great talker is also a great liar
9. A good name is better than riches
11. A friend's frown is better than a fool's smile
13. Faith will move mountains

2. You cannot teach an old dog new tricks
4. The pot calling the kettle black
6. No pain no gain
8. Familiarity breeds contempt
10. Many hands make light work
12. God helps those who help themselves
14. Two wrongs do not make a right

Challenge 7

1. Let sleeping dogs lie
3. It is never too late to mend
5. Live not to eat, but eat to live
7. Don't wash your dirty linen in public
9. An apple a day keeps the doctor away
11. Blood is thicker than water
13. Too many cooks spoil the broth

2. After a storm comes a calm
4. New brooms sweep clean
6. First come, first served
8. Every flow must have its ebb
10. Do unto others as you would others do unto you
12. The child is the father of the man
14. If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch

Challenge 8

1. A bully is always a coward
3. Don't judge a book by its cover
5. Silence means consent
7. Walls have ears
9. There is no smoke without fire
11. Once bitten, twice shy
13. The more you get, the more you want

2. Cut your coat according to your cloth
4. Hide not your light under a bushel
6. When in Rome, do as the Romans do
8. The labourer is worthy of his hire
10. Paddle your own canoe
12. Every cloud has a silver lining
14. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet

Challenge 9

1. All's fair in love and war
3. Don't cry over spilt milk
5. A penny saved is a penny gained
7. Who chatters to you will chatter of you
9. All's well that ends well
11. A Jack of all trades is master of none
13. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread

2. Better to be alone than in ill company
4. Catch not at the shadow and lose the substance
6. Still waters run deep
8. The proof of the pudding is in the eating
10. If the cap fits, wear it
12. Knowledge is power
14. Fine words butter no parsnips

Challenge 10

1. Everything comes to him who waits
3. A drowning man will clutch at a straw
5. Honesty is the best policy
7. One swallow does not make a summer
9. Give a dog a bad name and hang him
11. Don't tell tales out of school
13. You cannot teach an old dog new tricks

2. A fault confessed is half redressed
4. Home is where the heart is
6. There is no time like the present
8. Like father, like son
10. A man is known by the company he keeps
12. All roads lead to Rome
14. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear

Challenge 11

1. It never rains but it pours
3. Hunger is the best sauce
5. Never look a gift horse in the mouth
7. Half a loaf is better than no bread
9. Any port in a storm
11. All good things must come to an end
13. Two of a trade never agree

2. He that cannot obey, cannot command
4. If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well
6. Don't have too many irons in the fire
8. Grasp all, lose all
10. The grapes are sour
12. In for a penny, in for a pound
14. When the cat is away, the mice will play

Challenge 12

1. Rome was not built in a day
3. Zeal without knowledge is a runaway horse
5. Barking dogs seldom bite
7. Time and tide wait for no man
9. The truth will come out
11. United we stand, divided we fall
13. The best things come in small packages

2. Actions speak louder than words
4. Strike while the iron is hot
6. Beauty is only skin deep
8. A thing begun is half done
10. Time is money
12. When one door shuts, another opens
14. Don't make a mountain out of a molehill

Challenge 13

1. Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you
3. Even homer sometimes nods
5. Honesty is the best policy
7. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy
9. The beaten road is the safest
11. A creaking gate hangs long
13. Procrastination is the thief of time

2. Don't put the cart before the horse
4. East or west, home is the best
6. Don't change horses in midstream
8. Better sure than sorry
10. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched
12. The devil is not as black as he is painted
14. Union is strength

Challenge 14

1. Truth is stranger than fiction
3. Absence makes the heart grow fonder
5. Haste makes waste
7. The best is often the enemy of the good
9. Call a spade a spade
11. Care killed the cat
13. Don't change horse in midstream

2. Brevity is the soul of wit
4. As you make your bed, so you must lie on it.
6. Curses, like chickens, come home to roost
8. A burnt child dreads fire
10. He who begins many things finishes but few
12. Charity begins at home
14. Even a worm will turn

Challenge 15

1. A contented mind is a perpetual feast
3. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth
5. Practice makes perfect
7. Penny wise, pound foolish
9. Distance lends enchantment to the view
11. Curiosity kills the cat
13. All's well that ends well

2. Don't cross a bridge until you come to it
4. One good turn deserves another
6. Undertake no more than you can perform
8. Crime doesn't pay
10. Cross one's t's and dot one's i's
12. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder
14. Books and friends should be few but good

Challenge 16

1. Discontent is the first step to progress
3. Every law has a loophole
5. Everything must have a beginning
7. Ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it
9. Hedge between keeps friendship green
11. Everybody's business is nobody's business
13. To err is human

2. If the shoe fits, wear it
4. Many a little makes a mickle
6. Beggars cannot be choosers
8. Half the world knows not how the other half lives
10. The higher you climb, the harder you fall
12. Hope springs eternal in the human breast
14. Every oak from small acorns grow

Challenge 17

1. The highest branch is not the safest roost
3. Example is better than precept
5. It is a long lane that has no turning
7. Health is better than wealth
9. Make hay while the sun shines
11. Don't make a mountain out of a molehill
13. If two men ride a horse, one must ride behind

2. If the hill will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet will go to the hill
4. If you run after two hares, you will catch neither
6. Love of money is the root of all evil
8. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good
10. Help a lame dog over a stile
12. Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone
14. Hope springs eternal

Challenge 18

1. It is better to wear out than to rust out
3. It is easier to pull down than to build up
5. It is too late to lock the stable when the horse has been stolen
7. Expectation is better than realisation
9. He who denies all confesses all
11. Every man has his taste
13. Familiarity breeds contempt

2. Every why has a wherefore
4. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched
6. It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back
8. There is no pleasure without pain
10. Laughter is the best medicine
12. Every man has his price
14. He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom

Challenge 19

1. He that fights and runs away may live to fight another day
3. If you can't beat them, join them
5. Learn to walk before you run
7. Prosperity makes friends, adversity tries them
9. More haste, less speed
11. The more you have, the more you want
13. All's fair in love and war

2. Fair exchange is no robbery
4. Marry in haste, and repent at leisure
6. Faith will move mountains
8. He that is down need fear no fall
10. You cannot make bricks without straw
12. None so blind as those who won't hear
14. Blood is thicker than water

Challenge 20

1. Least said, soonest mended
3. Practise what you preach
5. Praise makes good men better and bad men worse
7. There is no garden without its weeds
9. There is no royal road to learning.
11. As well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb
13. More haste, less speed

2. Opportunity seldom knocks twice
4. You scratch my back and I will scratch yours
6. Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest
8. You cannot get blood out of a stone
10. Hope for the best and prepare for the worst
12. To err is human, to forgive, divine
14. Fire is a good servant but a bad master

Challenge 21

1. What is done cannot be undone
3. You cannot burn the candle at both ends
5. You cannot catch old birds with chaff
7. Let well alone
9. There is no rose without a thorn
11. Waste not, want not
13. Honesty is the best policy

2. A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse
4. Money begets money
6. Misfortunes never come singly
8. You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds
10. You never know what you will do till you try
12. A cat may look at a King
14. You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs

Challenge 22

1. A fool and his money are soon parted
3. A golden key can open any door
5. A liar ought to have a good memory
7. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing
9. You may lead a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink
11. There is no wheat without chaff
13. In for a penny, in for a pound

2. You cannot put old heads on young shoulders
4. Even a worm will turn
6. Discretion is the better part of valour
8. Cleanliness is next to godliness
10. All's fish that comes to the net
12. An old poacher makes the best gamekeeper
14. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

Challenge 23

1. Ask no questions and hear no lies
3. Children should be seen and not heard
5. A friend in need is a friend indeed
7. The best things come in small packages
9. Nothing succeeds like success
11. Easy come, easy go
13. There is no smoke without fire

2. Better be safe than sorry
4. The labourer is worth his hire
6. Death is the great leveler
8. A prophet is not without honour, save in his follower
10. Don't cut your nose to spite your face
12. Confession is good for the soul
14. Ignorance is bliss

Challenge 24

1. Every dog has his day
3. Better late than never
5. A good beginning makes a good ending
7. He travels fastest who travels alone
9. He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day.
11. The leopard never changes its spots
13. Forwarned is forarmed

2. Live and let live
4. Good wine needs no bush
6. Great minds think alike
8. Little strokes fell great oaks
10. A trouble shared is a trouble halved
12. It is better to give than to receive
14. Virtue is its own reward

Challenge 25

1. He who laughs last, laughs best
3. History repeats itself
5. Honey catches more flies than vinegar
7. Go while the going is good
9. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery
11. It's a long lane that has no turning
13. Zeal without knowledge is a runaway horse

2. Attack is the best form of defence
4. Little things please little minds
6. Man proposes, God disposes
8. A place for everything, and everything in its place
10. Fear the Greeks bearing gifts
12. Fine words butter no parsnips
14. Walls have ears

Challenge 26

1. Little pitchers have big ears
3. Every little helps
5. The eyes are the windows of the soul
7. Love will find a way
9. Second thoughts are best
11. The end justifies the means
13. Spare the rod and spoil the child

2. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery
4. Love makes the world go round
6. Time is a great healer
8. Many a true word is spoken in jest
10. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned
12. Money isn't everything
14. One man's-meat is another man's poison

Challenge 27

1. Old habits die hard
3. Do as you would be done by
5. Might is right
7. A picture is worth a thousand words
9. Don't meet trouble halfway
11. East, west, home's best
13. You cannot make bricks without straw

2. The apple never falls far from the tree
4. One man's loss is another man's gain
6. There is no accounting for tastes
8. Poverty is not a crime
10. Punctuality is the politeness of Princes
12. Seek and ye shall find
14. One swallow does not make a summer

Challenge 28

1. Talk of the devil, and he will appear
3. The bigger they are, the harder they fall
5. The devil finds work for idle hands to do
7. The good die young
9. The pen is mightier than the sword
11. Never is a long time
13. Dead man tells no tale

2. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise
4. Devils take the hindmost
6. First impressions are the most lasting
8. Procrastination is the thief of time
10. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water
12. Great oaks from little acorns grow
14. Even Homer sometimes nods

Challenge 29

1. The road to hell is paved with good intentions
3. Believe nothing of what you hear and half of what you see
5. If you play with fire, you get burnt
7. There are as good fishes in the sea as ever came out of it
9. Ask a silly question and you get a silly answer
11. No news is good news
13. Call a spade a spade

2. The sooner begun, the sooner done
4. The unexpected always happens
6. The way to a man's heart is through his stomach
8. There is more than one way to skin a cat
10. There is honour among thieves
12. Fine feathers make fine birds
14. Absence makes the heart grow fonder

Challenge 30

1. There's none so blind as those who will not see
3. Ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it
5. A fault confessed is half redressed
7. Travel broadens the mind
9. Two is company, three is none
11. Virtue is its own reward
13. Courtesy costs nothing

2. Throw dirt and some will stick
4. Every man to his taste
6. Enough is as good as a feast
8. There is nothing new under the sun
10. Appearances are deceptive
12. What can't be cured must be endured
14. All's fish that comes to the net

Challenge 31

1. A change is as good as a rest
3. Boys will be boys
5. A penny saved is a penny earned
7. The darkest hour is just before the dawn
9. Do as I say, not as I do
11. You never miss the water till the well runs dry
13. The early bird catches the worm

2. Two blacks don't make a white
4. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof
6. In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is King
8. Bad news travel fast
10. Blood will tell
12. Clothes make the man
14. Grasp all, lose all

Challenge 32

1. There are two sides to every question
3. It's an ill bird that fouls its own nest
5. Let the cobbler stick to his last
7. You cannot put a quart into a pint pot
9. All good things must come to an end
11. Desperate diseases must have desperate remedies
13. Never buy a pig in a poke

2. Divide and rule
4. Judge not, that ye be not judged
6. Seeing is believing
8. Delays are dangerous
10. There's no fool like an old fool
12. Marriage is a lottery
14. What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over

Challenge 33

1. Every man to his trade
3. Give the devil his due
5. First catch your hare
7. Forewarned is forearmed
9. Four eyes see more than two
11. Don't spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar
13. An apple a day keeps the doctor away

2. Everything has an end
4. Experience is the best teacher
6. First things first
8. It is better to be born lucky than rich
10. Give a man enough rope and he will hang himself
12. Handsome is as handsome does
14. Comparisons are odious

Challenge 34

1. He that goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing
3. He who sups the devil should have a long spoon
5. If a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing well
7. Why keep a dog and bark yourself?
9. Like will to live
11. Slow but sure wins the race
13. Better to be alone than in ill company

2. There is always a first time
4. Hope springs eternal
6. It is best to be on the safe side
8. It is the first step that is difficult
10. Moderation in all things
12. There is safety in numbers
14. Too late to shut the stable door after the horse has gone

Challenge 35

1. It takes all sorts to make a world
3. It takes two to make a bargain
5. Tomorrow never comes
7. It takes two to make a quarrel
9. Leave well alone
11. Lend your money and lose your friend
13. A great talker is also a great liar

2. Money talks
4. Love is blind
6. You can't please everyone
8. Know thyself
10. You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs
12. The best of friends must part
14. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth

Challenge 36

1. Marriages are made in heaven
3. The best things in life are free
5. You can have too much of a good thing
7. You can only die once
9. It takes two to tango
11. Bread is the staff of life
13. Bad news travels fast

2. What you don't know can't hurt you
4. Money is the root of all evil
6. Needs must when the devil drives
8. No pain, no gain
10. You can't tell a book by its cover
12. It is easy to be wise after the event
14. The sooner begun, the sooner done

Challenge 37

1. Look before you leap
2. Kindle not a fire you cannot put out
3. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread
4. An idle brain is the devil's workshop
5. You cannot have your cake and eat it
6. Variety is the spice of life
7. Pride goes before a fall
8. Every oak must be an acorn
9. Empty vessels make the most noise
10. Dead men tell no tales
11. No rose without a thorn
12. Don't make a mouse of yourself or the cat will eat you
13. A rolling stone gathers no moss
14. You cannot put a quart into a pint pot

Challenge 38

1. There is a time and a place for everything
2. You can't win them all
3. Time flies
4. To know all is to forgive all
5. All is fish that comes to the net
6. When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window
7. Tomorrow is another day
8. What you've never had, you never miss
9. You cannot get blood from a stone
10. Union is strength
11. We must learn to walk before we can run
12. The more the merrier
13. As you make your bed, so you must lie on it
14. It takes all sorts to make a world

Challenge 39

1. Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion
2. What's bred in the bone will come out in the flesh
3. Where there's a will, there's a way
4. Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow
5. While there's life, there's hope
6. The more you get, the more you want
7. You are never too old to learn
8. No man can serve two masters
9. Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind
10. A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse
11. Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown
12. He who hesitates is lost
13. Experience is the best teacher
14. Apples on the other side of the wall are the sweetest

Challenge 40

1. Lookers on see more of the game
2. One law for the rich and another for the poor
3. You are what you eat
4. Neither a borrower nor lender be
5. Between two stools you fall to the ground
6. Patience is a virtue
7. The grass is always greener on the other side
8. All is grist that comes to the mill
9. Well begun is half done
10. Set a thief to catch a thief
11. Nothing is certain but death and taxes
12. There's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip
13. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing
14. Many a true word is spoken in jest

Part 8 : Figures of Speech

Challenge	Question									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	4
2	2	1	4	3	1	1	4	3	2	3
3	3	2	4	1	2	4	1	2	3	3
4	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	4	3	2
5	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	4	3	1
6	3	1	3	2	3	2	4	2	1	3
7	3	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	3	2
8	4	2	2	1	2	3	1	3	4	2
9	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	4	3	2
10	4	2	3	1	4	2	2	2	4	2
11	2	2	1	4	2	1	1	3	4	3
12	4	2	1	4	3	4	3	3	2	4
13	3	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	4	1
14	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	2
15	3	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
16	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	3	4
17	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	4	4
18	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
19	2	3	2	1	3	3	1	3	2	2
20	2	3	1	2	4	3	1	3	3	1
21	3	1	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3
22	2	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	4
23	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	2
24	3	3	1	2	2	4	1	1	4	2
25	3	2	2	1	3	2	4	2	3	3
26	2	4	4	2	1	3	1	1	3	4
27	3	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	1
28	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	1	1	1
29	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2
30	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	1

Part 9 : Similes

Challenge 1

1. a polecat
2. joyful
3. an iceberg
4. wool
5. poker
6. delicate
7. a shrine
8. smoke
9. uncertain
10. candid
11. garrulous
12. billows
13. justice
14. vigilant
15. superfluous
16. enticing
17. apostle
18. blameless

Challenge 2

1. a pan
2. relentless
3. quicksilver
4. uncontrollable
5. oaks
6. fabulous
7. rocks
8. vast
9. horny
10. tough
11. tranquil
12. tower
13. razors
14. barrel
15. sponge
16. pyramids
17. rhinoceros
18. shepherd

Challenge 3

1. monotonous
2. progressive
3. bitter
4. a grating wheel
5. Juno
6. Banquo's ghost
7. King Lear
8. Dutch oven
9. pleasant
10. the sun
11. poles
12. neat
13. fertile
14. flabby
15. awkward
16. doorpost
17. ditchwater
18. audacious

Challenge 4

1. a bear
2. dice
3. frizzled
4. dew on parched flowers
5. large
6. a ship in the doldrums
7. thought
8. mournful
9. bricks
10. grand
11. thought
12. hollow
13. delicious
14. magpie
15. glum
16. greyhound
17. oath
18. immaculate

Challenge 5

1. the pyramids
2. salty
3. spring
4. sensitive
5. opaque
6. soothing
7. persistent
8. a fawn
9. a calf
10. garrulous
11. beetles
12. grasshopper
13. dew
14. ravenous
15. dull
16. indolent
17. bullfinch
18. election

Challenge 6

1. the sun
2. firm
3. right
4. fire
5. rotten
6. springtime
7. inexhaustible
8. The month of May
9. fit
10. the day
11. hearse
12. ruthless
13. element
14. spruce
15. immortal
16. fustian
17. dangerous
18. friendless

Challenge 7

1. swift
2. malicious
3. tenacious
4. venomous
5. chubby
6. greedy
7. the hills
8. fixed
9. a fish
10. mum
11. tortoise
12. surefooted
13. hoarse
14. slippery
15. crafty
16. mustard
17. humanity
18. fiddle string

Challenge 8

1. restless
2. senseless
3. a bear
4. voracious
5. simple
6. bald
7. inevitable
8. a child
9. modest
10. a bell
11. shapeless
12. jackdaw
13. rhinoceros
14. caterpillar
15. eloquent
16. treacherous
17. variable
18. hazelnut

Challenge 9

1. mysterious
2. a blue rose
3. unstable
4. deep
5. tender
6. violent
7. wan
8. a mirror
9. a steeple
10. tidy
11. hushed
12. scarecrow
13. lax
14. resistless
15. placid
16. forget-me-nots
17. hammer
18. sphinx

Challenge 10

1. holy truth
2. an egg is of meat
3. the stars
4. an arrow
5. sweet
6. a slave
7. hungry
8. harmless
9. a Scot
10. alike
11. mule
12. gall
13. Methuselah
14. audacious
15. arid
16. pikestaff
17. sulphur
18. saucy

Challenge 11

1. media
2. troublesome
3. bird
4. Eve in paradise
5. little
6. clockwork
7. distant
8. cold
9. a queen
10. a schoolgirl
11. trivial
12. Hamlet
13. hideous
14. barren
15. sentinel
16. heather
17. Heaven's expanse
18. Achilles

Challenge 12

1. happy
2. clear
3. glossy
4. countless
5. brass
6. gold
7. judge
8. an egg
9. grim
10. smooth
11. weather-beaten
12. daft
13. stupid
14. deceptive
15. dangerous
16. Greek puzzle
17. beetroot
18. inflexible

Challenge 13

1. dead
2. brass
3. the sand upon the ocean shore
4. paint
5. disappointing
6. empty
7. deers
8. sailors
9. a sunbeam
10. a berry
11. buoyant
12. contrary
13. faint
14. glory
15. corkscrew
16. trackless
17. unconquerable
18. conscientious

Challenge 14

1. peaceful
2. plain
3. a cucumber
4. convincing
5. needful
6. nine pence
7. thunder
8. level
9. lawful
10. the stormy wind
11. invisible
12. cucumber
13. passionate
14. sour
15. remote
16. obnoxious
17. blithe
18. fighting cock

Challenge 15

1. a thought
2. unconquerable
3. real
4. shameful
5. tough
6. the night
7. poppies
8. seedy
9. pure
10. obedient
11. blackberries
12. elusive
13. jubilant
14. reed
15. tombstone
16. chamois
17. weasel
18. chimpanzee

Challenge 16
1. atoms 2. solitary 3. life 4. jolly 5. a dream 6. an oak
7. heavy 8. the break of day 9. steady 10. the bank 11. unapproachable 12. gospel
13. log 14. carrion 15. imperishable 16. hatter 17. contagious 18. powerless

Challenge 17
1. frail 2. a lord 3. snow 4. a cat 5. the sea 6. mild
7. busy 8. fickle 9. chalk and cheese 10. a bone 11. desolate 12. clammy
13. sticks 14. glorious 15. nervous 16. dejected 17. cricket 18. lithe

Challenge 18
1. proud 2. lambs 3. bare 4. wary 5. a dream 6. a judge
7. a riddle 8. flat 9. fragile 10. cool 11. brilliant 12. kitten
13. chaste 14. stale 15. picture 16. slander 17. dreadful 18. dreary

Challenge 19
1. rosy 2. wise 3. a peacock 4. voiceless 5. a duchess 6. positive
7. useful 8. ragged 9. constant 10. mud 11. Soloman 12. Othello
13. blight 14. bounteous 15. dungeon 16. noiseless 17. transient 18. universal

Challenge 20
1. sleepless 2. artificial 3. an empty bottle 4. a lamb 5. boundless 6. cheerless
7. a devil 8. thoughtless 9. worms 10. stubborn 11. Spaniard 12. spineless
13. goose 14. clumsy 15. gaudy 16. futurity 17. glib 18. vigorous

Part 10 : Parts of Speech

Challenge 1
1. levelled 2. captivating 3. habitual 4. bungling 5. peacefully 6. frugality
7. borderless 8. attributable 9. gastronomic 10. bookish 11. contrivance 12. gratification
13. blistering 14. impairment 15. bloodcurdling 16. collaborative 17. magnetism 18. marriagable

Challenge 2
1. analytical 2. lovelorn 3. blaring 4. whereabouts 5. bitchiness 6. beguiling
7. hindrance 8. awestruck 9. blockage 10. strangulated 11. allegations 12. incapacity
13. imponderable 14. brooding 15. imperturbable 16. civilisation 17. luxuriate 18. pursuance

Challenge 3
1. hysterical 2. humanitarian 3. bitterness 4. pliancy 5. blackout 6. hazardous
7. harrowing 8. atmospheric 9. harmoniously 10. blooming 11. harried 12. reservist
13. hastily 14. glandular 15. gutless 16. fratricidal 17. palmistry 18. farcical

Challenge 4
1. gruffly 2. bountiful 3. grubby 4. graphology 5. mandatory 6. blissful
7. gnawing 8. heartily 9. rudimentary 10. gnomic 11. glamorous 12. gloriously
13. glittering 14. nationalistic 15. buoyancy 16. inoperable 17. favouritism 18. fawning

Challenge 5
1. gibberish 2. frostiness 3. bothersome 4. frothy 5. runway 6. frolicsome
7. prohibitive 8. flirtatious 9. awesome 10. bombastic 11. specialisation 12. centralised
13. bloodshot 14. receivership 15. corrosive 16. sonorous 17. forbearance 18. bureaucracy

Challenge 6
1. purposeful 2. deferential 3. cynical 4. quietude 5. defiance 6. bribery
7. doubtless 8. convertible 9. blameworthy 10. deducible 11. idleness 12. boorish
13. egotistically 14. fearsome 15. disposable 16. epitomises 17. epigrammatic 18. enthralling

Challenge 7
1. photographic 2. droplets 3. progressively 4. earthenware 5. unrealistic 6. edgily
7. morality 8. elusive 9. grumpiness 10. reconciliation 11. fraudulent 12. exhaustive
~~13. meddlesome~~ 14. emulation 15. fiery 16. framework 17. conniving 18. fragmentary

Challenge 8
1. slipshod 2. extravaganza 3. penitent 4. enthusiast 5. rivalry 6. braying
7. fervour 8. expiry 9. penalty 10. fixtures 11. capitulation 12. telescopic
13. familiarity 14. dispensary 15. habitually 16. provocative 17. stigmatise 18. steelworks

Challenge 9
1. bumptiousness 2. inaptitude 3. idealistic 4. hesitant 5. marketable 6. villainous
7. frivolity 8. highness 9. ignitable 10. postage 11. scepticism 12. rebuttal
13. calorific 14. incisive 15. moodiness 16. stupefaction 17. tempestuous 18. stoppage

Challenge 10
1. annihilation 2. indulgence 3. conversationalist 4. quantifiable 5. intrusive 6. lengthily
7. disciplinary 8. landscapes 9. prevalent 10. leafage 11. recurrence 12. laundrette
13. journalism 14. validated 15. possessive 16. stimulant 17. riveting 18. riotous

Challenge 11
1. ritualistic 2. blandishment 3. instantaneous 4. simpleton 5. lubricant 6. ~~futuristic~~
7. maddening 8. reparable 9. lucidity 10. preservation 11. mimicry 12. patronage
13. shortfalls 14. worldliness 15. memorial 16. spadework 17. singular 18. shoddiness

Challenge 12
1. sedative 2. immeasurable 3. remembrance 4. modifiable 5. salivate 6. meteorite
7. rhythmic 8. polarity 9. insulation 10. shipwrecked 11. fortitude 12. respiratory
13. moonlighting 14. forbearance 15. installation 16. seditious 17. sculptural 18. salvation

Challenge 13
1. rectifiable 2. retention 3. pharmaceutical 4. manipulative 5. payment 6. seasoned
7. remorseless 8. reverence 9. patchwork 10. melodious 11. profiteer 12. picturesque
13. mechanism 14. rebellious 15. pretentious 16. sagacious 17. specialities 18. timeliness

Challenge 14
1. slackened 2. quotation 3. rarity 4. speculative 5. verbosity 6. regrettably
7. deadlock 8. peculiarities 9 quicken 10. registrar 11. prohibitive 12. wrongful
13. workmanship 14. noticeable 15. boastful 16. resounding 17. piratical 18. resemblance

Challenge 15
1. scientifically 2. roundabout 3. prosperity 4. residential 5. astonishment 6. quizzical
7. productive 8. renewable 9. capricious 10. sickening 11. anonymity 12. repelling
13. baffling 14. trustworthy 15. scantily 16. resentment 17. reflexive 18. referral

Challenge 16
1. wearisome 2. retractable 3. worsening 4. restorative 5. purification 6. spectacular
7. wastage 8. trappings 9. unscrupulous 10. vigorous 11. tyrannical 12. wedlock
13. tranquillity 14. widespread 15. skyscrapers 16. whimsical 17. transcendental 18. tractable

Challenge 17
1. apologetically 2. unreasonable 3. blasphemous 4. skinned 5. vicious 6. rectifiable
7. woolliness 8. socialites 9. vibrations 10. snobbery 11. translation 12. wreckage
13. studiously 14. victimised 15. starring 16. totality 17. torrential 18. placatory

Challenge 18
1. belligerently 2. torpor 3. blabbering 4. rustiness 5. variety 6. tiresome
7. bewilderment 8. illustration 9. atonement 10. symbolically 11. truthfulness 12. wretchedness
13. sightseeing 14. wondrous 15. recital 16. promissory 17. prolongation 18. sparkling

Challenge 19
1. vaporise 2. transcription 3. visitation 4. trickery 5. usefulness 6. bevelled
7. vigilant 8. wanderlust 9. alphabetical 10. vocalist 11. loathsome 12. recognition
13. stimulating 14. revolutionary 15. rapturous 16. frumpish 17. pastoral 18. pasteurisation

Challenge 20
1. worshippers 2. willpower 3. windswept 4. wistfulness 5. trivialise 6. warfare
7. tactless 8. proclamation 9. responsive 10. vaccinated 11. wayward 12. pilfering
13. referendum 14. burgeoning 15. reverberations 16. mythical 17. manifestation 18. sustenance